

# THE ATHENÆUM

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No. 726.

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For the convenience of Subscribers in remote places, the weekly numbers are reissued in Monthly Parts, stitched in a wrapper, and forwarded with the Magazine. Subscriptions for the Stamped Edition for the Continent, for not less than 3 Months, and in advance, are received by M. BASTARD, 3, Quai Malaquais, Paris, or at the Athenæum Office, London. For France, and other Countries not requiring postage to be paid in London, 3s. 6d. or 11s. 2s. the year. To other countries, the postage in addition.

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.**  
FACULTY OF ARTS AND LAWS.—Session 1841-42.  
The Session will commence on FRIDAY, the 15th October, when Professor KEY will deliver a LECTURE INTRODUCTORY to his own Courses, at 2 o'clock precisely.

**LATIN.**—Professor Key, A.M.  
**GREEK.**—Professor Malden, A.M.  
**HEBREW.**—Professor Hurwitz.  
**ARABIC, PERSIAN, AND HINDUSTANI.**—Prof. Falconer, A.M.  
**CHINESE LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.**—Professor Rev. Samuel Kidd.  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.**—Prof. Latham, A.M.  
**FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.**—Prof. Merlet.  
**ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.**—Prof. Popoli.  
**GERMAN LANGUAGE.**—Teacher, Mr. Wittich.  
**MATHEMATICS.**—Professor De Morgan.  
**NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.**—Professorship vacant. The particulars of this will be announced early in the Session.  
**CIVIL ENGINEERING.**—Professor Vignoles.  
**CHEMISTRY (Practical Course commencing in May).**—Prof. Graham, F.R.S.  
**THEORY (Course for the Matriculation Examination in Arts at the University of London).**—Professor Graham.  
**GEOLOGY (commencing in February).**—Prof. Webster, F.G.S.  
**DRAWING (in all its branches).**—Prof. Webster, F.G.S.  
**BOTANY, Junior Class (commencing in April).**—Professor Lindley, Ph.D.  
**ZOOLOGY (commencing in February).**—Professor Grant, M.D.  
**PHILOSOPHY MIND AND LOGIC.**—Professor the Rev. J. Hopson, Ph.D.  
**HISTORY, ANCIENT AND MODERN.**—Professor Cressy, A.M.  
**ENGLISH LAW (commencing in Nov.).**—Prof. Carey, A.M.  
**JURISPRUDENCE (commencing 4th Nov.).**—Prof. Carey, A.M.  
**SCHOOLMASTERS' COURSES.**—Professors Key, De Morgan, and Malden.

**FLAHERTY SCHOLARSHIPS.**  
A Flaherty Scholarship of 50l. per annum, tenable for four years, will be awarded in 1842, to the best proficient in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy among the Students of the College under the age of 20 years. The examination will take place in the second week in October. A similar Scholarship for proficiency in Classics will be awarded in 1843, and in subsequent years, alternately, for proficiency in Classics, and in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy.

Printed copies of the Regulations concerning the Scholarships may be had on application at the Office.  
The Session of the Faculty of Medicine commences on the 1st October; the Junior School opens on the 23rd September. Prospectuses, and further particulars, may be obtained at the Office of the College.

P. F. MERLET, Dean of Faculty.  
CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council.  
Sept. 1, 1841.

**CIVIL ENGINEERING.—THE LECTURES**  
on CIVIL ENGINEERING of Prof. VIGNOLES, for the Session, will COMMENCE on WEDNESDAY, Nov. 3.

From the numerous subjects connected with Civil Engineering the following are selected for the Session 1841-42, and will be treated of in Two Courses, viz.:

First Course.—The Lectures:—On Foundations, Earth Work, Retaining Walls, &c.  
Second Course.—Eighteen Lectures:—On the Construction of Railways, including the principles of Laying out, Lines, Works, Estimates, Application of Power, Economy, &c.

The Second Course will commence on the first Wednesday in February.

The other branches of Internal Communication will be the subject of Lectures in the Session 1842-3.

The Lectures will be on Wednesdays, from Seven to Eight, p.m., and may be attended by persons not intending to go through any other course in the College.

The fee to Matriculated Students and to Students of the College attending the Classes of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy will be 4s. for the two Courses.

The Class of Mathematics of Prof. De Morgan, of Chemistry of Prof. Graham, and of Drawing of Mr. G. B. Moore, will commence with the opening of the session.

The Class of Natural Philosophy, the Professorship being now vacant, will open soon after the appointment of a new Professor, which will be made early in the session.

The Courses of Lectures on GEOLOGY of Prof. Webster, one part of which will be devoted to the application of Geology and Geology to the useful Arts, will commence in February.

A Course of Lessons on PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY will be given in the Spring by Prof. Graham.

Further particulars may be had on application at the Office of the College.  
P. F. MERLET, Dean of the Faculty of Arts.  
CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council.  
University College, London, Sept. 16, 1841.

**KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.—DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE, ARTS, AND MANUFACTURES.**—The COURSE OF ARCHITECTURE, in this department, will BEGIN on SATURDAY, the 9th of Oct.

**SCHOOL.**—THE CLASSES will RE-COMMENCE on MONDAY, the 4th of October next.

Information may be obtained on application at the Secretary's Office.  
J. LONSDALE, Principal.  
Sept. 1841.

**KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.—MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.**—The several COURSES of LECTURES in this College will COMMENCE for the Winter Session on FRIDAY, the 1st of October.

**KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL.**—The Hospital is attended daily at one o'clock by the Physicians and Surgeons, throughout the year; and Clinical Lectures are given every week during the Winter and Summer Sessions.

**RESIDENCE OF STUDENTS.**—A limited number of Students may be accommodated with rooms in the College; and receive Students into their houses.  
J. LONSDALE, Principal.  
Sept. 1841.

**KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.—A HEADMASTER** is required for the SCHOOL, established in Nassau, New Providence, Bahama Islands, in connection with either of Oxford or Cambridge.  
Candidates must be in Holy Orders, and Graduates of either of Oxford or Cambridge.  
Applications, accompanied by testimonials, must be delivered on or before MONDAY, the 18th of October next, at the Secretary's Office, where further information may be obtained.  
By order of the Council.  
H. SMITH, Secretary.  
Sept. 15, 1841.

**THE CLASS LECTURES for the PUPILS of the ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION will RE-COMMENCE on FRIDAY, the 4th day of October next.**  
The following under the Management of JOHN RYAN, M.D. L.L.D. M.R.C.S. &c.:

The CHEMICAL CLASS has the advantage of a spacious and complete Laboratory.  
The STEAM-ENGINE AND NAVIGATION CLASS, for Naval Officers and others, has a complete set of Models for Illustration.  
The ENGINE DRIVER'S CLASS is assisted by a Practical Engineer and Engine Driver.  
The MATHEMATICAL CLASS is continued as heretofore.  
The CLASS LECTURES on EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY are under the Management of Prof. G. H. BACHOFFNER, Ph.D.  
Prospectus of the different Classes to be had of Mr. R. J. Longbottom, Secretary, at the Institution, Regent-street.

**CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE, LONDON.**

WINTER SESSION, 1841—October 1st to end of April.

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS (1st Oct.)—Mr. Hancock.

CHEMISTRY.—Mr. FOWDEN (alternate days)	Hours.
MATERIA MEDICA.—Dr. Stegall (ditto)	9 to 10
DESCRIPTIVE & SURGICAL ANATOMY.—Mr. Hird	10 to 11
DEMONSTRATIONS.—Mr. Hird & Mr. E. Canton	11 to 12
HOSPITAL PRACTICE	12 to 2
MIDWIFERY, &c.—Dr. Chowne	2 to 3
ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY.—W. Jones, F.R.S.	3 to 4
MEDICINE.—Dr. Shearman and Dr. J. H. Bennett	4 to 5
SURGERY.—Mr. Hancock	5 to 6
PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY.—Mr. Hancock	6 to 7
NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.—Mr. H. Watts, B.A.	8 to 9

(Open to non-medical persons.)

SUMMER SESSION, 1842—May 1st to end of July.

BOTANY.—Dr. Willshire

MIDWIFERY, &c.—Dr. Chowne

MED. JURISPRUDENCE.—Dr. Chowne & Dr. Bennett

General Fee for all the Lectures required by the College of Surgeons and Society of Apothecaries, Forty Guineas.

Physicians.—Dr. Shearman, Dr. Golding, Dr. Chowne.

Surgeons.—Mr. Hancock, Mr. Avery.

Medical Practice.—Six Months, 10l. 10s.; Full period, 15l. 15s.

Surgical Practice.—Six Months, 10l. 10s.; Full period, 15l. 15s.

Full period, to both Medical and Surgical Practice, 25 Guineas.

Clinical Lectures by the Physicians and Surgeons.

Certificates of attendance at this Hospital and College qualify for Examination on the respective Subjects, at the University of London, Royal College of Surgeons, and Society of Apothecaries.

JOHN ROBERTSON, Hon. Sec.

**BIRMINGHAM AND EDGBASTON PROPRIETARY SCHOOL.**

**WANTED IN THIS SCHOOL AN ASSISTANT MASTER,** competent to teach the Rudiments of Latin, as well as the ordinary subjects to the Junior Classes.

Salary 100l. per annum.

For particulars apply to the Honorary Secretary, Bennett's Hill, Birmingham; to whom the Testimonials of Candidates must be transmitted, on or before 1st October the 22nd, 1841.

J. C. BARLOW, Hon. Sec.

Birmingham, Sept. 22nd, 1841.

**TO THE NOBILITY, &c.**—A married Clergyman, of the University of Cambridge, resident on a Rectory 80 miles N.W. of London, wishes to RECEIVE FOUR PUPILS at a very early age, to prepare them for the public schools.

He will be glad to entertain them in his Rectory, and to enjoy all the comforts of home, and sleep in separate beds, and only at three guineas per annum, 100 guineas per annum.

For particulars address, post paid, or apply personally to Dr. K. 9, Clarence-place, Pentonville.

**LONDON AND BRIGHTON RAILWAY.**

This RAILWAY is NOW OPENED THROUGHOUT from London to Brighton, for the conveyance of passengers, parcels, private carriages, and horses.

Down trains from London on Sundays.—Mixed train at three-quarters-past 9 A.M.; first class train at three-quarters-past 10 A.M.; mixed train at three-quarters-past 1 P.M.; mixed train at three-quarters-past 2 P.M.; first class train at three-quarters-past 3 P.M.; express train at three-quarters-past 4 P.M.; mixed train to Croydon only at 7 P.M.

The mixed train will arrive at Brighton in two hours and a half, the first class trains in two hours, and the express train in an hour and three-quarters.

Sunday trains down from London.—Mixed trains at 8 A.M., three-quarters-past 10 A.M., and 7 P.M., and a mixed train to Croydon only at 10 P.M.

Up trains from Brighton daily, except Sundays.—Mixed train at three-quarters-past 6 A.M.; express train at half-past 8 A.M.; first class train at three-quarters-past 10 A.M.; mixed train at three-quarters-past 11 A.M.; first class train at three-quarters-past 1 P.M.; mixed train at 4 P.M.; and a mixed train from Croydon only at 10 P.M.

Fares to and from London and Brighton.—First class carriages, 14s. 6d.; second class, 9s. 6d.; children in second class, 6d.

Fares to Croydon.—First class, 2s.; second class, 1s. 6d.

N.B. No passengers will be conveyed from London to Newcross, or Newcross to London.

The express train will stop nowhere on the line to take up or set down passengers.

The first class trains will stop only at Croydon, Red-hill, Three Bridges, and Haywards Heath.

The mixed trains will only consist of first and second class carriages, and will stop at every station on the line.

Children under 10 years of age in first class carriages will be charged second class fare. No charge made for infants in arms.

Bills containing all particulars as to the conveyance of carriages, horses, dogs, luggage, and parcels, together with information as to omnibuses, post horses, &c., may be had on application at the offices of the Company, 10, Angel-court, Throgmorton-street; or at the following bookshops, Messrs. G. and W. Green, Man and St. Paul's, Oxford-street; Hatchett's, Piccadilly; H. Regent-circuit; Spradley, ditto; Golden-cross, Chancery-lane; George and John, Holborn; Old Bull, Holborn; White Horse, Fetter-lane; Cross Keys, Wood-street; and at the spread Eagle, Gracechurch-street; also at the Terminal, London-bridge, and Brighton; and all the stations on the line.

By order, THOMAS WOOD, Sec.

**MUSIC TAUGHT by a YOUNG LADY,** thoroughly qualified, and accustomed to tuition, Terms 1s. 6d. per Lesson.—Address (post paid) to C. F. 4, New London-street, Fenchurch-street.

**CROSBY HALL,** between Crosby-square and Great St. Helen's, within the City of London.—The reparation of Crosby Hall has been nearly completed by the funds subscribed for that purpose, and in addition the Council Chamber and Throne Room have been in great measure restored to their original and characteristic beauty from the original Foundation of the College in the immediate locality of the original Foundation and of the Founder's Tomb; but the Graham Committee having at length decided to relinquish this most appropriate site, and Hall are now at liberty to receive proposals from other parties. The premises, in point of space, beauty, and historic interest, are scarcely to be equaled in the Metropolis. They may be viewed in Bishopsgate-street, opposite to the ancient Gresham College, now occupied as the Royal Exchange; and proposals may be addressed to the Trustees of Crosby Hall, to the care of W. Jones, Esq., Solicitor, 7, Crosby-square.

**Sales by Auction.**  
By Messrs. SOUTHWATE & SON, at their Rooms, 22, Fleet-street, on MONDAY, September 27, and four following days, at 1 o'clock precisely.

**A VALUABLE COLLECTION OF BOOKS,** in various departments of Literature; among which are:—Gwinnett's Works, 5 vols.—Rastrelli's Works, 4 vols.—Charnock's Works, 2 vols.—Hushwood's Works, 1 vol.—Camden's Britannia, by Gough, 4 vols.—Gell's Works, 2 vols.—Dunlap's Ecclesiastical History, 13 vols.—Cave's History of the Primitive Fathers.—Woodrow's History of the Church of Scotland, 2 vols.—Dugdale's History of St. Paul's Cathedral, by Ellis—History of St. Peter's, Westminster, 2 vols. L. P.—Goli Lexicon Arabico-Latinum—Russett's Vita Patrum—Chemistry—a selection of Works on Annals, &c. &c.

And on MONDAY, October 4, and five following days.

**AN EXTENSIVE COLLECTION OF MODERN BOOKS IN QUIRES AND BOARDS;** being the STOCK in TRADE of Messrs. BANCOS & CO. Booksellers, by order of the Assignees. Catalogues of which may be obtained on application to the offices of T. Surr, Esq., Solicitor, 90, Lombard-street, and at the Rooms.

\* Liberal accommodation offered on Property; and large or small Collections of Books, Prints, &c., promptly disposed of by Public Competition.

**THE VALUABLE LIBRARY OF THE LATE GEORGE CHALMERS, ESQ.**

**MESSRS. EVANS & SONS, at 93, Pall Mall,** on MONDAY next, September 27, and eight following days, the very curious and valuable LIBRARY of the late George Chalmers, Esq., Author of the Life of Mary Queen of Scots, Calcedonia Antiqua, &c.; including the True Tragedy of Richard Duke of York and the Death of Good King Henry the Sixth, an unique copy, 1695—Hakluyt's Voyages to America, only one other perfect copy known, 1652—a most curious collection of works, ancient and modern, on America—a most curious and valuable collection of Proclamations during the reign of Charles II.—a most curious collection of early Broadside—Dugdale's History of St. Paul's Cathedral, by Ellis—History of St. Peter's, Westminster, 2 vols. L. P.—Goli Lexicon Arabico-Latinum—Russett's Vita Patrum—Chemistry—a selection of Works on Annals, &c. &c.

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**A CATALOGUE OF BOOKS, ANCIENT AND MODERN,** priced unusually low, for ready money, is published every Month, GRATIS, and sent post free, by Gentlemen sending their address to G. WILLIS, Bookseller, Piazza, Covent Garden. These cheap-price Catalogues contain the best Collections of Books in every variety of Literature; by this means Country Gentlemen, Students, Booksellers, and Librarians, can obtain almost any work at a price much less than usually charged.

On the 1st of October will be published, price 6s., Part I. of

**LECTURES on AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY AND GEOLOGY.** By JAS. F. W. JOHNSTON, M.A., F.R.S., L. & C. Fellow of the Geological Society, Honorary Member of the Royal English Agricultural Society, Reader in Chemistry and Mineralogy in the University of Durham.

William Blackwood & Sons, George-street, Edinburgh, and Pall Mall, London; Andrews, Durham; and all Booksellers.

**ETCHING CLUB.**

**THE MEMBERS OF THE ETCHING CLUB** have completed their ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE DESERTED VILLAGE. The Work consists of eighty Original Etchings by John Bell, Sculptor; C. W. Cope, Thomas Creswick, J. C. Horsley, H. Hodgrave, A.R.A.; C. B. Stoughton, Frederick Taylor, Member of the Society of Painters in Water Colours, H. J. Townsend, and Thomas Webster, A.R.A. Painters.

The publication will be on the following plan:—The Copies will be delivered strictly according to the order of subscription; when the number specified shall have been printed the plates will be destroyed.

25 Reserved India Paper Proofs, before Letters, half Columbian, at 15 Guineas each.

50 India Paper Proofs, half Columbian, with the Poem engraved on the Plates, at 15 Guineas each.

150 copies India Paper, quarter Columbian, at 5 Guineas each.

Subscribers' names received by the Secretary, Mr. Redgrave, Hyde Park-gate, Kensington-gate, and by Mr. Griffiths, 14, Waterloo-place, Pall Mall, where Copy of the Work may be seen, between the hours of One and Four any day of the week, except Monday.

# COUNTY FIRE OFFICE, and PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE, 50, Regent-street, Piccadilly.

Established 1807.  
His Grace the Duke of Rutland, Sir Frederick A. Rose, Bart.  
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The advantages offered to the public by the above Offices as such result from a course of uninterrupted prosperity—the fruits of a prudent and economical management for a period of thirty-five years.

At the present time so many establishments exist, vying with each other in the profusion of benefits, to the public, which numerous failures and consequent ruin to thousands of industrious families have proved to be fallacious, that the Directors think they will best discharge their duty to the Proprietors and to the Public by a simple statement of the advantages which have been realized by these Offices.

THE COUNTY FIRE OFFICE has not only settled all claims with promptitude and liberality, but has, from its first establishment, made large returns to the Insured—These amount at the present time to 125,000l.

THE PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE has at each septennial period divided the whole of the profits, subject to a deduction of about a twentieth part only, among the Insured. The benefits actually secured to lives insured in this Office, may be judged of by the following Table:—

No. of Policy.	Sum Insured.	Bonus in 1813 & 1820.	Bonus in 1827 & 1834.	Bonus in 1841.	Total Bonus.	Sum Insured.
109	37	221 11 2	397 11 0	604 0 4	1213 3 4	2500
430	38	50 3 11	159 5 0	248 6 4	457 13 5	1000
235	38	257 10 1	460 10 2	749 6 0	1506 11 3	3000
492	46	105 13 9	197 16 2	259 15 11	604 7 10	1000
515	31	72 13 1	134 13 7	204 1 1	411 7 9	1000
992	30	107 8 6	328 8 6	460 7 10	974 7 10	2000

J. A. BEAUMONT, Esq., Managing Director.

# NATIONAL LOAN FUND SOCIETY, for Granting Life Assurances, Deferred Annuities, &c., &c., 26, Cornhill—Capital, 500,000l. Empowered by Act of Parliament.

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The advantages, convenience, economy, and security offered by the plans and loan principle of Life Assurance and Deferred Annuities, originated by this Office, are worthy the serious consideration and comparison with other systems by those contemplating Provision for a Family, for Old Age, or as a collateral money security.—See the detailed Plans and last Annual Reports of the Society, to be had at the Office, at any of its Branches, or on application will be forwarded post free.

F. FERGUSON CAMROUX, Secretary.

# THE YORKSHIRE FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, established at YORK, 1824, and empowered by Act of Parliament—Capital, 500,000l.

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The steady and increasing support which this Company has received during the seventeen years of its establishment, is the best proof of the confidence which the public repose in its stability and liberality.

The attention of the public is particularly called to the terms of this Company for LIFE INSURANCES, and to the distinction which is made between MALE and FEMALE lives.

The following extracts from the Tables (complete Copies of which, with the Rates for the intermediate Ages and for terms of years, may be had on application, at the Office York, or of any of the Agents,) will show the Annual Premiums required, for securing 1000l., payable on the decease of

Age next birth-day.	A MALE.	A FEMALE.	Age next birth-day.	A MALE.	A FEMALE.
10	£1 7 6	£1 5 4	46	£3 11 6	£3 2 3
13	1 9 3	1 7 6	50	4 1 9	3 13 2
16	1 11 2	1 9 5	54	4 11 0	3 13 2
20	1 14 0	1 11 6	58	5 4 0	4 4 0
23	1 17 0	1 13 8	60	6 6 0	5 12 6
26	2 0 0	1 16 2	64	7 4 0	6 9 6
30	2 5 0	1 19 9	68	8 4 0	7 10 8
33	3 0 0	2 2 10	70	10 0 4	9 7 6
36	3 18 0	2 6 4	73	11 16 9	11 2 6
40	4 2 10	3 12 0	76	14 12 0	13 12 0
43	5 3 3	4 17 2	80	15 12 10	15 12 10

\* Example—A Gentleman whose age does not exceed 30, may insure 1000l. payable on his decease, for an annual payment of 21s. 10s. 4d., and a Lady of the same age, can secure the same sum, for an annual payment of 19s. 17s. 6d.

FIRE INSURANCES are also effected by this Company at the most moderate terms. FARMING STOCK insured without the Average Clause.

Agents have been appointed in most of the principal towns, of whom, as well as at the Office in York, every information may be had.

Agents are wanted in those Towns where no Appointments have been made; the Commissions allowed are such as to render the Agencies worthy the attention of respectable Parties. Applications to be sent to

Mr. W. L. NEWMAN, Actuary and Secretary, York.

# TO HEIRS PRESUMPTIVE, OR PARTIES EXPECTANT OF REVERSIONS.

## THE FAMILY ENDOWMENT SOCIETY,

In addition to its ordinary business of Assuring Lives, granting Annuities, and providing for the contingency of future Children, undertakes a branch of Assurance which is entirely new, viz—that of assuring against the contingency of a future Child or Children who might become Heirs.

By the payment of an Annual Premium for a determinate number of years, the Society will assure to a parent, or Reversioner, a sum of money payable in the event of his Title to the Estate or the Reversion being defeated by the birth of a Child.

No. 8, Chatham-place. JOHN CAZENOVE, Secretary.

# NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION,

Enrolled under Acts of Parliament, passed the 10th of Geo. IV. 4th Wm. IV. and 4th Vict. relating to Friendly Societies, for MUTUAL ASSURANCE OF LIVES, ENDOWMENTS, and ANNUITIES, 13, Nicholas-lane, King William-street, London.

C. P. Boufield, Esq. R. Ingham, Esq. M.P.  
John Bradbury, Esq. Joseph Janon, Esq.  
William Cash, Esq. S. Hayhurst Lucas, Esq.  
Thomas Calk, Esq. S. Lushington, Esq.  
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John Feltham, Esq. Richard Shortridge, Esq.  
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J. T. Conquest, M.D. F.L.S. [Thomas Bevan, Esq. F.L.S. Solicitors—Messrs. Hardwick & Davidson.]

Members, whose Premiums become due on the 1st October next, are reminded that the same must be paid within Thirty days from that time.

Among the privileges to be derived by effecting Assurances in this Institution, is that of Members being able to secure the benefit of their Policies to Nominees, free of any charge. The whole of the Profits are divided among its Members. The first division will take place in December next.

Prospectuses, together with the Report of the last Annual Meeting, and every other information, may be obtained by applying at the Office, or of the Agents and Medical Officers in the County. JOSEPH MARSH, Sec. 21st Sept. 1841.

Empowered by special Act of Parliament, 4 Victoria, cap. 9.

# BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, No. 1, Princes-street, Bank, and 8, King William-street, City, London.

This Institution, empowered by a special Act of Parliament, and is so constituted as to afford the benefits of Life Assurance, in its fullest extent, to Policy-Holders, and to present greater facilities and accommodation than can be obtained in any other Office.

The decided superiority of its plan, and its claim to public preference and support, have been proved, incontestably, by its extraordinary and unprecedented success.

Among others, the following important advantages may be enumerated:—A most economical set of Tables—computed expressly for the use of this Company, and presenting the lowest rates of Assurance that can be offered without compromising the safety of the Institution.

Increasing rates of Premium on a new and remarkable plan, for securing long and certain life, at a less immediate payment being required on a Policy for the whole term of life than in any other Office.

Premiums payable either Annually, Half-yearly, or Quarterly, in one sum, or in a limited number of payments. A Board of Directors in attendance daily at Two o'clock.

The age of the assured in every case admitted in the Policy. All claims payable within one month after proof of death. Medical Attendants remunerated, in all cases, for their reports.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1841.

## REVIEWS

*Narratives illustrative of the Contests in Ireland in 1641 and 1690.* Edited by T. C. Croker, Esq. Printed for the Camden Society.

No half-century in the annals of any country exhibits such a series of rapid and almost inexplicable revolutions, as the period of Irish history to which the narratives contained in this volume relate. Unfortunately, also, there is no series of civil wars so rife with controversy, so misrepresented by parties, and so intimately connected with modern prejudices. The Irish civil wars of 1641, exhibited the unparalleled spectacle of five distinct parties, all in arms at the same time, and all rancorously opposed to each other; these were the Puritans or Parliamentarians, the Protestant Royalists, the Northern Irish, the Catholic Lords of the Pale, and the Irish of the South, who formed the strength of the ultra-papal party. There were many sub-divisions in each of these; but without entering into their enumeration, it is sufficiently obvious that every Irishman of the present day must belong to some modern representative of one or other of these parties, and must therefore come to the history of the period armed against the perception of truth with all the prejudices of tradition and education.

Fortunately, the first narrative in this volume is an episode, so remotely connected with the general war, that there is no necessity for our entering on any of the harassing controversies connected with the Great Civil War. It is the journal of the defence of a castle in the county of Clare, so obscure, that the Editor has not been able to identify its locality; and it is chiefly valuable from its illustrating the rude and almost barbarous modes of warfare, employed so late as the middle of the seventeenth century.

Ballyally Castle was held on lease from Sir Valentine Blake, of Galway, by the widow of Maurice Cuffe, who was either an Englishman or of English extraction. From some incidental remarks in the narrative, it appears that the castle was connected with what is called "a bawne" in Pinnar's Survey of Ulster; that is to say, a square inclosure defended by walls and flankers, to which the castle was a kind of citadel. Bawnes were generally erected by English tenants as defences against the hostility of the native Irish, who regarded them as intruders, and from the remains of many which are still to be found in various parts of Ireland, they must have been capable of sustaining a vigorous defence against besiegers unprovided with cannon.

It was the professed determination of the native Irish insurgents to expel all English settlers, and this was the reason why they never heartily coalesced with the Lords of the Pale, or with the Royalists. Hence Mrs. Cuffe, on the first intelligence of the insurrection, placed Ballyally in a posture of defence. The Earl of Thomond, like most of the nobility, was attached to the royal cause, and was therefore jealous of the designs of the Lords Justices, who were warm partisans of the English Parliament. As lord lieutenant of the county of Clare, or Thomond as it was then called, he levied an army among his tenants and retainers; but the English settlers viewed these soldiers as enemies, and refused to surrender their arms to them. The refusal placed them in an attitude of hostility to the royal power, and at a later period identified them with the party of Cromwell and the English Parliament.

On the 4th of February 1641, the castle having been first formally summoned, the siege commenced. The Irish battering apparatus consisted of two *sows*, or moveable wooden towers,

and a piece of ordnance made of leather. Trusting to the efficacy of this curious train, the besiegers sent a second summons to Ballyally, the result of which is thus quaintly related:—

"Now the enemi having finisid there two sowes and there letheren great peece, thaie brings them within our sight of the castell, and then sendes Captaine Henry O'Gradey, of Chockany, of the county of Limrick, to sumen the castell; and being demanded by som that were upon the battellment warding, what athorety hee had to demand it, or right or claime he could laie two it? Whereupon hee anshwerd that hee had commission from his Majesty to banesh all the Protestants of the Kingdom of Ireland. Heere upon, without further examination, there was a bullet sent from the castell by one of the warders to examen his cumishon, which went through his thigh, but he made shift to rumberl to the bushes and there fell doune, but only laye by it sixteen wickes, in which time unhapely it was cured."

The forms and dimensions of the two *sows* are given with laudable precision. The chief of them was, in fact, a wooden house on wheels, "35 foote long and 9 foote broad," bound together with iron hoops, and "lickwaies covard over with 2 rowes of hides, and 2 rowes of sheepe skinnes, soe that noe musket bullet or steale arrow could pearse it, of which triell was often made." The second *sow* was so small that it was moved on one wheel, like a wheel-barrow, and was only used to bring supplies to the larger. The leathern cannon was a more original invention than these revivals of the classical *vineæ* and *testudines*:—

"The said peece was about 5 foote in length, not built upon cagedge, but fastened in a stocke of timber. This goon thaie planted in the great trench, neere the castell, to be redy when thaie found acation to discharge har, the dimetrie being aboutt 5 inches; the lether thaie made har withall was leetell better than half tand."

The success of this piece of ordnance was such as might have been expected:—

"The next morning thaie made triell of there lethern gun at us, but shee only gaue a great report, having 3<sup>rd</sup> of powthar in har, but lett fly backwarde the bullet remaining within."

The besiegers were equally unfortunate with their *sows*, which were taken in a Sally, and the castle was in consequence abandoned to its defenders:—

"One the Sondaie morning my brothers and the rest of the men resoled to ventar forth for watter, which most desparately thaye performed, furst venturing upon the men that were gon into the haggard, levying men suffishent within the castell to kepe the enemy of from releiving the sow or haggard, which company in the haggard lost there lives, only one that swam over the lough. Having had good succes heere, thaie then fell upon the sowes, recovering both, and kiling and mortall wounding all the men that were therein, only Abraham Baker, whom they tuck prisor, and gaird in their sowes one great fowling peece, 1 houlbard, one sword, 4 skeanes, 4 pikes, 3 halfe pickes, 2 great iron sledges, 2 great iron bares, 2 pickaxes, 4 spades, 5 shovels, 1 great hamer, one boriar, 1 paire quarnes [querns, hand-mills to grind corn]. Notwithstanding, the enemy kept camtes, not removing from us tell the 12th daie of March, only leaving som ambushe in most viledges neerest us, expecting to cutt our gard of whereere thaie saled forth for any fresh releefe, the which, however, wee ventard forth for, and finding there plotes in lying our neithore howsing, wee indevard and did performe heere upon to make the waies a leetell cleerer in burning all the howsing that was within a mile or better of us; by which memes we were abell to ventar forth much the more safe, and usely afterwarde, tell our second seedge, ventard forth, and gaine many praies."

The incidental mention in the following passages of a bribe offered to the governor, the Earl of Thomond, the nature of the bribe, and the issue, are characteristic of the times:—

"The Castell of Inshecronane was besiedged the

13th of March, being the daie after thaye left Balyaly, by Gileduffe O'Shanes and the Grades, and som Conoth men that were returning home; where upon Anthony Heathcot sent a letter to the Earle of Thomond, promising his lordship a rick of wheat, if his lordship would bee plesed to releve hem; whereupon the earle sent for Durman O'Brien and John M'Namarow and there companies to goe with hem, which thaye did accordingly, and lickwaies tuck his one trope and about 50 English men in arnes, and went (according to Mr. Heathcotte's desire); but before hee came to the castell som of the Irish sent notes to the seecidgars, where upon thaie removed before his lordship came; but, however, finding two or three rogges remaining in the bushes, kild them. But the rick of wheat by the enemy was burnt."

We must now turn to the second narrative in this volume, which is a far more important historical document. It is, under names slightly disguised, a narrative of the struggle between William III. and James II. in Ireland, written by Colonel O'Kelly, a distinguished officer of the Irish army, and to whom the editor assigns the character of a sincere patriot. The narrative is entitled 'Macarie Excidium, or the Destruction of Cyprus (Ireland),' and his main object is to show that the success of William was owing, not to the superior valour of his soldiers, but to the crooked policy of James, the negligence of the French government, and the cowardice or treachery of Tyrconnell.

The author's charge against James is, that he was afraid of winning Ireland, and of availing himself of the aid of the Irish Catholics, because it would have so irritated the prejudices of his Protestant subjects in England and Scotland, as to destroy all chance of his being restored to the throne of Britain. It might be added, that the avowed policy of all the Stuarts was to establish an English interest in Ireland, and when this was effected by Cromwell, both Charles II. and James evinced the greatest anxiety to maintain his settlement of Irish property. The author of the narrative indeed asserts, that James at this crisis of his fortunes could with difficulty be reconciled to the act for restoring the forfeited estates.

"It was not without some regret that he consented to abolish the unjust decree of his brother Pythagoras (Charles), which confirmed to the Cilician (English) rebels the lands of the loyal Cyprians (Irish), formerly given them by Attilas (Oliver Cromwell) and his regicide Cilician (English) senate, when, after murdering Pythagoras (Charles) the First, they declared against Monarchy and set up a Commonwealth. And it is much doubted, to this day, if Demetrius (Count d'Avauz), Ambassadour of Syria (France), had not warmly interposed, reminding him often of his engagement to Antiochus (King Lewis XIV.) to redress the injustice done to his Cyprian (Irish) subjects, whether any other consideration would prevail with him to restore to the loyal Cyprians (Irish) the inheritance of their ancestours, which they lost in the service of the Kings his father and brother; though the late Cilician (English) proprietors were at that very time in open hostility against him."

The editor, however, quotes a contemporary authority which would show, that James was very earnest and zealous in favour of the Act, and the anecdote has every appearance of truth.

"Motion made [in the House of Commons] for adjourning till Thursday, because Wednesday was a holiday. The King ask'd what holiday? Answered, The Restoration of his brother and himself, &c. He replied, The fitter to restore those loyal Catholick gentlemen that had suffered with him, and been kept unjustly out of their estates. The motion rejected."

As a further evidence of James's partiality, the writer observes, that the four Protestant bishops who remained in Ireland were allowed to take their seats in parliament, and that no writs were addressed to the Catholic prelates. To the same perversity he attributes the neglect of the favourable opportunities that presented

themselves for storming Schomburgh's camp before the arrival of William.

"This resolution was believed to proceed from a wrong maxim of state, which his evil councillors prompted him to embrace, that the only way to recover Cilicia (*England*) was to loose Cyprus (*Ireland*); for they persuaded him that Cyprus (*Ireland*) being once reduced, the Cilicians (*English*) would immediately recall him, as they formerly brought in his brother Pythagoras (*Charles*); but this was a favour he could not hope for, whilst he headed a Cyprian (*Irish*) or a Syrian (*French*) army. And so, like the dog in the fable, he must let go the substance to snatch at the shadow."

He mentions further, and as more striking evidence of the influence of such councils on the mind of James, that he "disbanded forty legions, newly raised, because they were for the most part composed of the old Cyprian (*Irish*) race," and marched to meet William at the Boyne, who had double his numbers, and whose troops were in much better order and discipline. Such a measure would have been unaccountable, did not the Stuart papers give us reason to believe, that James anxiously desired to conciliate the English, and expected the army to have wavered in their allegiance to William.

Col. O'Kelly adds little to what is already known respecting the battle of the Boyne; he dwells indignantly on James's hasty flight to France, his assertion there that the French auxiliary force, which only lost six men in all, had been deserted by their allies and cut to pieces, and that Ireland was irretrievably lost.

"This calumny, so artfully spread abroad, made such a noise in Syria (*France*), that the Cyprian (*Irish*) merchants, who lived there since the conquest of Attila (*Oliver Cromwell*), durst not walk abroad or appear in the streets, the people were so exasperated against them; and no other relation coming out of Cyprus (*Ireland*) to contradict it, for Coridon (*Tyrconnell*), who was no stranger to the plot, put an embargo on all ships, to hinder any account from thence into Syria (*France*), that might gainsay what was told there upon the arrival of Amasis (*James*). Antiochus (*King Lewis XIV.*) himself, who never hitherto wanted true intelligence, finding no account of the Cyprian (*Irish*) affairs contrary to these relations, confidently averred by persons of unquestionable credit, had no reason to misbelieve it; and consequently giving all the island for lost, he judged to no purpose to send relief to a people that were not capable of any."

Every subsequent disaster which the Irish suffered, is attributed by the writer to Tyrconnell, whom he represents as determined to make peace with England on any terms. The truth of these allegations is not easy to be established: Tyrconnell was indeed married to the sister-in-law of Lord Churchill (afterwards Duke of Marlborough,) and though that nobleman had been one of the first to desert James, he soon opened a correspondence with the exiled monarch, and was viewed with great suspicion by William. Through him, Tyrconnell might have made proposals for a treaty which would preserve the English ascendancy in Ireland, and thus, as he hoped, facilitate the recall of James to England, and maintain, at the same time, the Stuart system of policy in the sister-kingdom. There is now indeed little doubt, that but for the popularity which he gained by the battle of the Boyne, and the subsequent successes of Ginckle, that William would have been abandoned by many of those who had been the first to invite him over, and that England might again have witnessed a restoration.

Col. O'Kelly's narrative is too general and too brief to be made the basis for an inquiry into the vacillation displayed by the leaders of the revolution, at the moment when their work was accomplished. His account of Tyrconnell's conduct, however, closely coincides with the notices of the contemporary intrigues which we

find in the Stuart papers, and it certainly was the course most likely to be approved by King James.

It is gratifying to find that the editor of these narratives, Mr. Crofton Croker, has, in the notes which ably elucidate the principal incidents they record, avoided all subjects that could give reasonable offence to any political or religious party. We trust that this example will be followed by the Irish Archaeological Society; there are many letters and narratives illustrative of the Irish civil wars, and not less so, of their connexion with English parties, which might be easily traced by a judicious inquirer, who was not suspected of partizanship by the families which possess them.

*Charles Chesterfield; or, the Adventures of a Youth of Genius.* By Mrs. Trollope. 3 vols. Colburn.

WITHOUT going quite as far as a celebrated French philosopher, who gives the preference to a good novel over a good history, we will confess that we attach a deeper importance to this class of literature than many of our worthy contemporaries. In our opinion, the lighter productions of intellect afford—and must necessarily afford—a more faithful index to the tendencies of civilization than do the graver publications. In the present state of things, the literary market is subjected to the same laws of supply and demand which regulate the commercial world; the publisher has just as strong a motive to study the intellectual wants of the public, as the merchant or tradesman to study its material wants, and we see no reason why the statistics of the former should not be taken, like those of the latter, as a guide to the "progress of the nation" in the peculiar sphere they embrace. But the demand for works of a graver character,—for those addressed to the thinking few,—is infinitely less variable than the demand for those addressed to the superficial many. The former undoubtedly increases with progressive intelligence, but its increase is steady and gradual: viewing social history *en masse*, it describes the *direct line* of advancement, while the latter demand represents the perturbations and aberrations.

With such opinions we shall be excused for calling attention to a characteristic of light literature in this our day, which we do not remember to have seen noticed. It is the disappearance from its surface of the genuine *Romance*;—the race seems absolutely extinct!—obsolete as the Megatheria and the Ichthyosauri!

Now a change in the elements of a national literature never takes place without a corresponding—and originating—change in the national mind. And what may this originating change be? What is there in the tendencies of the present day which, while we are absolutely deluged with *Novels*, acts as a repellent to a *Romance*? A few years ago these titles were so closely associated, that they were considered almost synonymous. What then constitutes the distinction which has rendered their destinies so different? Is it not that a *novel* is, or aims at being, a picture of daily life,—a reflex of human nature under the modifications of an actual state of society?—it professes to be, in fact, a faithful representation of the "web and texture" of that tapestry work, whose figures and groupings History undertakes to describe. A *romance*, on the contrary, pretends to no such fidelity of delineation. It strives to paint man as a being of passion alone; its view of life is taken by the flare of torches; artificial lights and abrupt shadows—dazzling brilliancy and fathomless gloom—such are the laws of its chiar-oscuro, such the effects it loves to produce. Everything it presents is rendered wildly picturesque, mysteriously

undefined, by the flickering glare which is thrown over the picture. In short, the *Novel*, while it strives to arrest our attention by exciting our sympathy and surprise, appeals to the observant and reasoning faculties also;—the *Romance*, on the contrary, addresses itself to the imagination alone, and, most often, requires for its full enjoyment an absolute torpor of both observation and reason.

If this definition be correct, a romance is at variance with the spirit of the present age. The nineteenth century is distinguished by a craving for the positive and the real—it is essentially an age of analysis and of criticism. The vast strides which the Philosophy of Matter has made of late, and the immense social influence exercised by its progress, have re-acted powerfully upon the tendencies of thought. The observing and reasoning faculties are daily solicited by some new discovery in Physics or in the application of Physics—and these faculties are (at least appear to be) the natural antagonists to the imagination. Hence the present dearth of Poetry and the death of *Romance*:—but whence the influx of *Novels*?—Is this consistent with our boasted activity of mind—with our vast increase of the incitements to reason? We think it is. Mind, although awakened, has not yet learnt that self-consciousness which can alone teach it its true destiny. It is active, but it is, as yet, destitute of aim for its activity;—it has not yet found the idea which is to be the guiding lamp of its efforts. Hence it wants energy (for there is no energy where there is no distinct object in view)—its activity is languid and diffuse—it cannot concentrate itself upon grave subjects gravely treated; but, while it asks for instruction, it asks for it in the shape of a toy;—it dresses up its philosophy in satins and tinsel and flowers. Hence the demand for novels, and hence the peculiar character they have assumed. The novelist no longer writes with the ostensible motive of amusement alone. Oh no!—he has far higher aims!—His characters are all personified facts; his dinner-parties and tea-parties are so many social truths *mises en action*; and his *conversazioni* are tilting-matches between antagonist systems of politics or of morals: or perhaps, with more unity of design, he devotes his three hot-pressed volumes to the illustration of some pet theory of his own—his diamonds and his flowers (like that many-coloured tablet in the German Fairy-tale,) weaving themselves to initiated eyes, into the stern characters of some abstract truth.

The clever authoress of the tale, which we have undertaken to appreciate, has been led, by the peculiar bent of her talents, to adopt a different walk. Endowed by nature with a remarkably quick perception of the ludicrous, and with considerable power of satire, Mrs. Trollope, instead of being a Propagandist, is a Destructive (let not her Conservative ears be offended at the title);—she burst upon us at once, armed cap-a-pee, a merciless crusader against all the follies and foibles of society; whether on this side the Atlantic, or on the other. Her works are a succession of satires on men, women, and manners, not, it must be owned, very polished in their style—she uses the saw more than the razor,—but still vigorous and biting—therefore popular.

Mrs. Trollope is not a progressive writer; her first work stereotyped her reputation, and fixed her position at once. Those who are so irresistibly attracted, as our authoress evidently is, to the *materiel* of society and of manners—to the *superficialities* of face and of deportment—cannot possess any very deep insight into the mysteries of mind. It were idle, therefore, for the critic to expect in Charles Chesterfield to trace any, even the most faint, generic feature which might recall Goethe's 'Tasso,' or

D'Israeli confess more potent Genius," Charles youngster youth and romance into writ second B this very phalanx search th we will double th bring it But th so much genius, a of the Lo gested by twelve or novel, he more qua intellectu racters an Indeed, outrageo regard it cism. I hand, it a Toryism, Like all of a keen considers overlade drawn ch least tru dows, th presented circles; a very sho pulous a ing the c terfield, the neig left a sm he takes up to L desire to of his ab him out a is a fash scale—a sive one and-six he robs is too sn How all daughte finally c people, Liberals mental must be recomm of that find so cerned, plying in caricatu The Sci Ass. man The Mo Secor It is n that the and del the two the mo



D'Israeli's 'Literary Character.' But we must confess we had expected from the authoress some more powerful conception of a "Youth of Genius," than the hero of her novel presents. Charles Chesterfield is nothing more than a youngster, who, at that transition period between youth and manhood which is the very era of romance, is driven, by an excited imagination, into writing verses and dreaming himself a second Byron. We will venture to say, that, at this very moment, London could supply a whole phalanx of such heroes;—and with liberty to search through any one of our suburban parishes, we will undertake to furnish said phalanx with double the requisite number of fitting heroines to bring its romance to a happy and orthodox issue.

But the object of the story is, evidently, not so much to depict the struggles or triumphs of genius, as to bring into ridicule the absurdities of the London coteries,—an idea probably suggested by 'The Lion,' which appeared some twelve or eighteen months since. Mrs. Trollope's novel, however, although displaying, perhaps, more qualifications for popularity, is inferior in intellectual range to its predecessor—its characters are less developed—its wit less refined. Indeed, the whole picture is so broadly and outrageously caricatured, that we can scarcely regard it as coming within the range of criticism. Like all the productions of the same hand, it advertises, à haute voix, its author's high Toryism, anti-Americanism, and Parisian *furor*. Like all of them, too, it is amusing—full of proofs of a keen observation—displaying, now and then, considerable artistical power, and is absolutely overlaid with satirical sallies. Perhaps the best drawn character in the work (and, we hope, the least true to nature), is that of Sir George Meddows, the hero's patron. This gentleman is represented as moving in the highest metropolitan circles; but, like many of his coevals, he is very short of cash, and is not particularly scrupulous as to the ways and means of replenishing the exchequer. Hearing that young Chesterfield, who is the son of a substantial farmer in the neighbourhood of his country-seat, has been left a small legacy by a considerate godmother, he takes the youth by the hand, and brings him up to London, ostensibly from a disinterested desire to place him in a fitting field for the display of his abilities, but in reality that he may swindle him out of his legacy. Sir George Meddows, in fact, is a fashionable "Jeremy Diddler" on a grand scale—and, at the same time, a very comprehensive one. He swindles his protégé out of seven-and-sixpence with the same address with which he robs him of four thousand pounds; nothing is too small or too large for his insatiable grasp. How all his designs are frustrated by an angelic daughter, and how Mr. Charles Chesterfield is finally convinced that he and Byron are different people, and how Mrs. Trollope quizzes the Liberals, and the German school, and the sentimental school, and every school except her own, must be learnt from the work itself. We can recommend it to those who wish for amusement of that racy kind which Mrs. Trollope's admirers find so beneficial; but, as far as criticism is concerned, we confess ourselves as incapable of applying it gravely to the work before us as to a caricature of HB's.

**The Science of Gunnery.** By William Greener, Ass. Ins. C.E., Author of 'The Gun.' Longman & Co.

**The Moor and the Loch.** By John Colquhoun. Second Edition. Murray.

It is not so much our fault as St. Swithen's that the reader was not benefited by a learned and delightful article on these books, in time for the twelfth of August. But who could think of the moors when every patch of verdure was a

quaking bog? or of streams and rivulets other than those which foamed and swelled as proudly down our kennels as through a Morayshire glen? Meanwhile, the doughty man-at-arms, whom we had designed should descant on these matters, stepped or steamed across the border to his shooting quarters—miles north of Inverary—with Mr. Colquhoun's tome in his pocket, after having laconically informed us that the additions only consisted of a chapter on deer-stalking, in compliance with the interest excited by Mr. Scrope's book—another on burn fishing, and a third on that of the loch; and leaving us altogether in the lurch as regarded Mr. Greener's volume.

With the "wisdom of ignorance," then, we must perforce treat of the wise man of Newcastle's treatise, and pick from it such information as seems likely to interest our readers—leaving to our Woolwich friends and to practical sportsmen to decide on the value of the matter thus extracted. We are all the more bound to make this reserve from having observed that Mr. Greener is singularly explosive on paper—delivers much bad temper in more bad English, and is never so well pleased as when he can have a shot at Mr. Wilkinson, the author of 'Engines of War.' Moreover, the preliminary Advertisement has not escaped our notice, in which Mr. Greener expresses a desire to extend his business beyond the narrow sphere of Newcastle, offering his services to any "state or power" to whom they may be an acquisition. Apart, however, from self laudation, bad grammar, and captious rivalry, there is stuff in Mr. Greener's volume.

A first chapter, on 'Ancient Arms,' begins with David's smooth stones from the brook—all mention, however, of Goliath's spear, the staff whereof "was like a weaver's beam," being unaccountably omitted; here, too, he remembers Ishmael's bow, and the scythes which armed the chariots of the Greeks and Persians. From Archimedes, Mr. Greener jumps to Robin Hood, thence back to Vespasian (for the sake of his battering ram), from whom, with a summerset, he alights in the times of Bruce. Then it is that we come to the subject matter of his book:—cannon or heavy ordnance, according to Barbour, the Scottish hero's biographer, having been first used by the English at the battle of Wre Water, in 1327, "about forty years after the death of Friar Bacon."

Meyrick, a high authority, assigns 1430 as the date of the invention of portable fire-arms, by the Italians. "The invention, in its primitive state, was one of extreme simplicity, consisting merely of a tube fixed to a straight stock of wood, furnished with trunnions, cascable, and touchhole, in the first instance at the top, like a large cannon, but afterwards altered to the side, where a small pan was placed to hold the priming, and lessen the liability of its being blown away by the wind." During the sixteenth century fire-arms underwent a variety of improvements: the Germans gave the stock of the hand-gun, so it was then called, a crooked form. This hand-gun was superseded by the pyrites wheel-lock. The snap-haunce, or fire-lock, claimed by Grose as a Dutch invention, began to be generally used in England towards the close of the seventeenth century. About the same time, or a little later, guns were first manufactured in England; and it is these—ranging from Joe Manton's best, down to the park-paling sold to the negroes at seven-and-sixpence a piece—that will henceforth engage our attention.

A word or two, parenthetically, on gunpowder—which Mr. Greener, somewhat originally, declares to be "the base upon which the superstructure of his work is to be built." As regards

its invention, our author lets slip some conjectural allusions to the "Oxydracea," a people whom Alexander the Great forbore to attack, because, Mr. Greener opines, they had their Pigous and Harveys!—More to the purpose is his citation of Roger Bacon's receipt, where all the ingredients for "thunder and lightning" are enumerated—charcoal not excepted, which figures anagrammatically, as "*luru mone cap ubre*" (carbonum pulvere). Since the monk of Ilchester's time, all that ingenuity could do has been done to regulate the proportions of the ingredients, and the projectile force of this destructive compound. Much information touching all these points has been collected by Mr. Greener; who insists, vehemently, that the power, as at present known, is sufficient for all purposes of Christian warfare. The explosive power of powder depends, in a degree, on its granulation—and by a modification in this process and that of drying, it may be made so sensitive as to be incapable of bearing the friction of one grain against another. A mixture, yet more sudden and violent in its operation, of which chlorate of potash forms an ingredient, has been made by the French, and was offered to the English government in 1809, by "a person of the name of Parr." But its introduction was opposed by Sir William Congreve, on the ground that no piece of ordnance in the service was able to withstand its effects. Mr. Greener conceives Mr. Warner's discovery, recently so much urged upon the nation, to be of the same character, if not of the same precise quality; and following Sir William Congreve's *caveat*, conceives that the plan of destroying a Königstein or an Ehrenbreitstein, by the contents of a pedlar's wallet or a donkey's pannier, is utterly Utopian.

To return, however, to the Gun. Another chapter is devoted to the consideration of British artillery—park guns, besieging guns, garrison guns, and marine artillery. We are enlightened as to the quality of brass guns,—which, being lighter than those made of the proper metal (copper and tin mixed), are less likely to burst; but which become unserviceable after a time, owing to the bore having a tendency, with use, to take an elliptical form. Carronades (so called from the first having been cast in the Carron foundry in 1779,) are objects of Mr. Greener's dislike. "Nothing but the bull-dog fighting of the last war," says he, "when ships are laid alongside, muzzle to muzzle, could have given them any length of existence at all." The ten-inch mortars are pronounced the most generally serviceable—monster machines, beginning with the leviathan used in the recent siege at Antwerp, having comparatively little effect. A great gun cast according to Mr. Monck's drawings and calculations, by the Board of Ordnance, has Mr. Greener's hearty approval; in fact, he had recommended something of the same kind in 'The Gun,' so warmly praised by Colonel Hawker. Mr. Monck's gun seems to answer perfectly.

"A compound shot, a shell filled with lead, was projected 5,720 yards, or three miles and a quarter, at a velocity, during the first second of time, of 2,400 feet per second, and occupying during the whole flight only 29½ seconds. The comparative weight of gun and shot is 1 to 220."

Of course shot, in all its different qualities, must figure in a chapter on Artillery. Mr. Greener does vigorous battle on behalf of lead, in preference to compound or iron shot. The destructive powers of the former, he says, are far greater. "Walls or fortifications struck by leaden balls at the same velocities, (waiving the advantage to lead by its greater specific gravity) would be pounded into sand by less than two thirds of the same number of lead as iron shot." The Shrapnell shell, however, is the most destructive missile in use, though still open, our

author believes, to much improvement. The introduction of percussion locks to large guns, which is now about to take place, will be a vast step forwards. This chapter also makes mention of the gunnery practice at Portsmouth, and a diagram is given of the ingenious revolving platform, intended to imitate a ship's rolling motion, upon which the tyro may learn adroitly and certainly to manœuvre the engine under his charge.

Chapter the fourth treats of the manufacture of iron for gun barrels. We are informed that since Mr. Greener fired his 'Gun,' this has been much improved:—

"Science and experience has worked a wonderful change in the mixture of the superior qualities of iron; for we have had announcements of silver-steel barrels, *only ten guineas a pair*, in the rough; Bressian steel barrels, carbonised iron, and I know not how many more descriptions or compounds of metals, to form the best material for high-priced barrels. We have now metal which, in the rod, cannot be sold for less than 1s. 2d. per pound; the iron for a pair of barrels thus costing 16s. 4d."

On the other hand, inferior articles are turned out of "a depth of infamy," which gives Mr. Greener the fairest opportunity for writing in the Erebus' vein:—

"During the existence of the slave-trade we made many thousands per year of what is, by the trade, technically termed *park paling*, being only fit for such purposes, and the cost of which was only *seven shillings and sixpence each*; but now we can furnish the Brazilians and others, who still imagine they hold a right in the blood of their fellow-men, ship loads, if they choose, at only *five shillings and sixpence each*, and it is still supposed one of these *imitations* is the blood-money for a fellow-creature. It would be a just and equitable law, if our legislature would pass it, 'That every man should fire the guns he manufactures;' nothing would tend to improve the quality of the guns of a low grade more."

The murderous consequence of this cheapness reveals itself, if we look into the processes necessary to the manufacture of gun-barrel iron. First, to produce it of its most perfect quality the choicest metal must be employed: old horse shoe nails used to be most in request, and it is only recently, that the impossibility of obtaining them in sufficient quantity has led to a series of experiments on "silver, and common twist steel." The working of the metal is a weary process. The rod must be twisted in proportion to the tension of its fibres; and many rods, Mr. Greener tells us, are over-twisted, by an attempt "to obtain figure," or to emulate "the watering or *Jowher*" in oriental sword blades, and genuine Damascus gun barrels. Here Mr. Greener throws out a conjecture as to the real manner of producing the Damascus effect, which seems to us worth extracting:—

"There is, as must be well understood, an immense variety of different qualities of both iron and steel; there is not a uniformity of quality in two productions out of a hundred; the very ore, the coal, the presence of oxygen, the excess of it, all vary the quality of the material; the excess of carbon is more detrimental than a scarcity; where carbon has once been it leaves an indelible mark, and though extracted to as great an extent as practicable, it leaves a residue that possesses an affinity to absorb carbon again equal to the original quantity; thus, once made steel, and it will never, by any process as yet known, be reconverted back to iron of the same nature it was originally. Mr. Mushet has given us the proportions of carbon held in solution by the various qualities of steel and iron. It will follow, as a principle indisputable, that the quantity of carbon contained in the metal (avoiding cast iron) will increase or decrease, and thus regulate the degree of hardness of the metals in question. A quantity of these being dissimilar in this point, mixed together, and run into a vessel in a state of fusion, when cold, filed, and polished, will show a variety as is the place they hold in the crystallized mass; work and twist this material in all the tortuous ways and shapes it is

capable of taking, and you only twist the fibres of the different bodies in the same way, and when they come to be acted upon by acid or oxydization, they still retain their relative positions, forming the watering or figure, as has been the intention of the tortuous twisting. All the beautiful arrangements in Damascus figures are obtained in this way; metals containing more or less carbon will always produce this watering. To obtain a satisfactory proof, any person may case-harden a few pounds weight of stubs, and afterwards melt them in a crucible, and run them into a receiver; when these are worked down into the bar, or not, as you please, dress and apply a little sulphuric acid, and the peculiar situation the various stubs had taken in the fluid state will be clearly discernible. The original barrel welders, the real Damascus iron workers, were, as are ours of the present day, not the most conscientious individuals, nor the most honourable. For strange, but not more so than true, on examination of most real Damascus barrels I have met with, I find the iron must have been so valuable, as to induce the workmen to plate or veneer the superior mixture over a body of the commonest iron; all large barrels are thus made, rifles especially. I suppose the moderns borrowed the invention: it would be well if they made no more extensive use of it than on rifle barrels, &c. \* \*

"All the varieties of figured barrels are but modifications of Damascus. The most endless variety possible may be attained; a figure with the carbonized material, showing only the ends or edges of the various laminas, or portions of the face of that lamina, may with equal facility be obtained, if the patience of the artist is in proportion. It would be a never-ending task, a subject for many volumes, to endeavour to describe a tithe of the varieties that might be made, and have been. The French and Belgians are very expert at this sort of ornamental work."

The fifth chapter is occupied by particulars as to the modes of barrel-welding. In England this process is only practised at Birmingham and in the surrounding districts, owing to the nature of the coal there, which is "nearly, if not entirely, free from the sulphure of iron, which has always been found a considerable hindrance to the obtaining of clear and good barrels." Mr. Greener, with an intimate knowledge of the facts, sturdily denounces the frauds practised in this branch of trade:—

"I shall, I doubt not, be accused of throwing the hatchet, when I assert three-fourths of the barrels welded in Birmingham at this time, which claim to be twist barrels, are all plated, 'veneered,' from the Damascus to the humble twopenny or *Wedgebury* skelp, a vast proportion certainly, but no exaggeration, it is true as I have printed it. The method of accomplishing this is by having the iron required rolled down into ribbons of a thin description, and these are twisted spirally round a tube of common iron having the fibres running length way or parallel with the bore. The cost of Damascus is 7½d. per pound, the iron they use for this purpose is only 1½d. A pair of barrels take 14 lb. of iron, say 6 lb. of this is Damascus plate costing 3s. 9d.; 8 lb. is common, amounting to 10d., instead of 5s., or a saving of 4s. 2d. a pair. The borer charges less, the iron is softer, the filer has less, and all items clubbed amount to something."

After the welding come the boring and grinding; and here must be determined that much canvassed question—the proper inclination of double barrels. The next step is the forming of the breech; after which we must entertain a still more momentous question,—the structure of the lock,—a subject, somewhat cursorily passed over, we think, by our author. On the staining, finishing, and decorating, Mr. Greener is more diffuse. The florist is not more enthusiastic as to the form of a petal, or the amateur violin player to the peculiar varnish on his Stradivarius, than the Colquhouns and Hawkers concerning proportion and finish:—

"The cost of a real, first-rate gun, must and will always vary, according to the circumstances of manufacture, or the peculiar arrangements of the manufacturer. \* \* The best or as good a gun as ever was

constructed, or ever will be, should yield the maker a profit at 35l.—cheaper it cannot be done, if *honestly the best*. I have studied and estimated the cost both of town and country-made guns, and am aware the London maker would be barely remunerated at this rate, from the extra expenses he is liable to. But I also know without any doubt, that as good guns can be, and have been, made in Birmingham as ever were produced in London. The facilities the former possess will always tell in that competition, and Westly Richards is an example, for not much better guns can be manufactured than he produces daily, as most London gunmakers full well know."

After his gun is completed, and Mr. Greener has fired a last round of double-shotted explosive against all the abominations made of "*sham damn iron*," which leave so many an African and Brazilian customer minus a hand or an arm, our well-experienced but incoherent author gives us a chapter which ought, we think, to have come earlier—on the proof of gun-barrels:—

"The great demand for rubbish of a villainous description during the existence of the slave trade, induced some philanthropic (or, more probably, some speculator,) to found a company, with suitable premises for the proof of all gun barrels, and for which they obtained an act of parliament in the year 1813, incorporating the body. The first act was found insufficient, as the Birmingham makers found easy means of evading its effects, and they had to obtain a fresh act in 1815, by which parties receiving any barrel to rib, stock, &c., without it having previously been proved, became liable to a penalty of 20l., and not less than 20s.; it also enacted that any person or persons making and selling any gun, the barrel of which had not been proved at either this or the London proof-house, became liable to the same penalty."

In compliance with this act of parliament, proof companies have been formed:—

"As soon as a number of gun barrels are loaded they are taken to a house or detached building, standing apart from other offices. It is lined throughout with thick sheet iron. The windows, which resemble Venetian blinds, are constructed of the same metal. Iron frames are laid the whole length of the room; on these the barrels of various qualities, when about to be fired, are placed. In the front of these frames lies a large mass of sand, to receive the balls. Behind the frame, on which the twist barrels are fixed, lies another bed of sand, in which, on the recoil, the barrels are buried. Behind the frame, on which the common barrels or muskets are tried, a strong iron bar is placed, having a number of holes large enough to receive the tang of the breech, but not the barrel. The barrels being thus fixed it is impossible for them to fly back. A groove runs along the whole length of each frame, in which the train of powder is strewed to ignite the charges, upon which the barrels, with the touch holes downwards, are laid. When everything is ready for the proof, the windows are let close down, the door is shut and secured; an iron rod heated red hot is introduced through a hole in the wall. On touching the train, a tremendous explosion takes place. The windows are then drawn up, the door opened, the smoke dissipated, and the twist barrels are found buried in the sand, the common ones are thrown forwards—some are found perfect, others burst to pieces. It is rare that best barrels are found burst—more frequently bulged or swelled out in places which are faulty, or of a softer temper. Those that are found perfect, are then marked with punches of different sizes (but having the same impression,) according to the quality of the barrel. In London, they have an additional punch, containing the number of the bore the barrel has been tried by. This mark easily enables the observer to discover whether the barrel has had any considerable quantity bored out after proving, which the marks of the Birmingham proof-house do not; the omission of which, except to a person well versed with the different sized punches is a disadvantage. Those that are bulged are sent back to the maker, who beats down the swellings, sends back the barrels, and they are proved again. They generally stand the second proof, though I have known a barrel undergo four proofs before it was marked. The common barrels are required to stand twenty-four hours before they are examined,

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when, if not burst, any holes or other material imperfections are made quite apparent by the action of the saltpetre. Such barrels are, of course, sent back unmarked. Those that are found satisfactory are duly stamped and taken home. \* \*

"There was proved at the Birmingham proof-house, during the last year, the following enormous quantity of barrels:—

Twisted barrels	50,000
Large barrels	500
Common iron barrels, including musket and fowling-piece barrels	180,000
Twisted pistol barrels	2,000
Common pistols	4,000
Saddle pistols	13,000

Total. 249,500

Taking these at an average of 5*d.* each, here is a gross amount of 5,107*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* yearly—an excellent income, indeed; the current expenses may be 1,000*l.* a-year, say 1,200*l.*, and thus you have a clear total of 3,907*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* a year to share amongst the fortunate holders of Proof Company's Stock.

"The London Proof Company also prove a considerable quantity of barrels annually; but, with the exception of the barrels of the East India Company's muskets, twist barrels are the principal. Their rules require double barrels to be put together and breeched, before they will receive them for proof. This is effectually evaded, too, by the Birmingham people, by soft soldering them temporarily, sending them, and afterwards sweating them down several ounces, either on a stone or with a float; then brazing them together, and finishing. Full thirty thousand twist barrels are annually sent to the Whitechapel proof from Birmingham alone: the quantity sent by the London makers may average four thousand, and these only the very best. The great supplies from Birmingham are intended mostly for the London sale shops, in addition to what direct orders are given to the former."

Mr. Greener now indulges in a few speculations on this subject, which appear to be worth consideration:—

"Whatever might be the original intention of the founders of the proof corporation, it is now quite evident it has settled down into a profitable speculation, a means of inflicting a tax upon the public, without a commensurate benefit. \* \* The high charges is a preventative to barrels being proved, for no one can imagine for a moment a barrel fier will pay to the proof house twenty per cent. tax, upon the article he manufactures; here he pays that if he pays at all, for a barrel that is sold for 1*s.* 9*d.* has paid 4*d.* for proving; can any one be expected to believe this, with the small penalty that is attached to the offence acting as the only stringent. No, thousands of barrels are yearly made, which never see the proof cellar at all. \* \* The gunpowder used is of a very inferior description indeed, when compared with sporting powder, the very powder all sporting guns are to be used with is nearly three times the power of the proof powder. For taking Hutton's calculation that gunpowder explodes with a velocity of five thousand feet per second, bear in mind he means government best powder, you have a material not exceeding one-third the velocity possessed by the best canister powder, for it is indisputable that the latter explodes with a velocity of full fifteen thousand feet per second, as the next chapter will go far to prove; the pressure of this will be in proportion; compare the resistance of 1½ ounces of shot, a body capable of being jammed together, and thus exerting a lateral pressure of the greatest extent with the lateral friction of two rolls of paper, and a solid ball, not capable of any lateral expansion, and barely all weighed together, equal to two-thirds the weight of the charge of shot, and the great dissimilarity becomes glaringly apparent. The proof powder is only of a similar strength to that of Hutton's calculation, and quite unfitted for the purpose. The generality of barrels that do burst are all rent in the fore part, all guns that burst with shooting, burst near the breech.—I do not say all, but a vast majority. This is in perfect keeping with all my remarks; for, in sporting, the greatest test is in the first lift of the charge; in proving, the greatest test is in the mid distance from breech to muzzle, and so arises the result. The proportion of guns that are broke (they technically call bursting broke) in proving is very small, not exceeding three to four per

cent. This I also applied at head quarters to know, but like the answers to the other questions, I was left to guess at them. The largeness of the grain of the powder is at too great an extreme, no doubt it is beneficial to have larger than the present sporting scale, yet, here they have grain large enough for a duck gun, instead of appropriating it to the various purposes wanted. Pistols are crammed nearly full of powder, with not an inch of tube for the ball to travel through, nor the slightest extra pressure obtained; why, it is one of the greatest pretences without reality I know of, and only a fit blind for the ignorant. If the legislature does not take up the question, and by the institution of a suitable test, backed by a penalty commensurate with the crime of depriving a fellow-creature of his limb, it will neglect an imperative duty, and become a party *particeps*."

The whole machine being thus finished off and ready for use, Mr. Greener naturally devotes a few chapters to the science of gunnery. To enter upon these in the absence of our counsellor, who, for aught we know, is now stalking "from Benvoirlich to bold Benvenue," would be taking aim in the dark; we cannot therefore do better than commend them to our friends at Woolwich: but it needs no degree in the College of Engineers to entitle us on parting from Mr. Greener to say, that should his work come to a second edition, he will do well to have it rewritten.

*China, or Illustrations of the Symbols, Philosophy, Antiquities, &c. of the Chinese.* By S. Kidd, Esq. Professor of Chinese, University College. Taylor & Walton.

Professor Kidd's object in this work is to give his readers a picture of the Chinese mind, by setting before them the circumstances most influential in the formation of Chinese character. Among these he assigns a foremost place to the language, and he devotes considerable space to an examination of its nature and powers. In opposition to De Ponceau, he contends that it is not in any way alphabetical, but that it is purely symbolical. He then compares the system of Chinese symbols with that of the Egyptian hieroglyphics, and points out some very striking analogies between them; hence he infers that the phonetic system of interpretation advocated by Champollion is based on error, because to transfer a character from the representation of an idea to that of a sound, is a process inconsistent with the genius of a symbolic language.

Proceeding from the language to the customs of the people, Professor Kidd notices several curious points of similarity between the Chinese and Egyptians, especially the great importance attached to the rites of sepulture, and their habit of familiarizing themselves with the image of death in the midst of life:—

"The constant anticipation of death would seem to be present with the Chinese in the practice adopted at Malacca, of always having a coffin placed outside the door to receive the adult inhabitant who may first require it. There is, however, but little if any additional seriousness on the great moral question. I have seen an aged individual seated on a coffin which he would perhaps soon occupy, reading not one of their ethical or religious works, but a popular novel, highly esteemed, indeed, for the ability with which it is written, though its immediate influence on the heart must be to increase its disinclination for the solemn ordeal of the judgment-seat. The appearance to a Christian stranger of so many peculiarly formed receptacles for the dead, contemporaneously placed at the doors of human dwellings, is calculated to awaken his sympathies, and create a tender interest on behalf of their owners. The motive for this singular act is ascribed to the requirements of filial piety, which cannot be satisfied without coffins of prescribed thickness, sufficiently seasoned to resist premature decay."

Mr. Kidd mentions an occurrence which took place under his own observation, which shows

that the sympathies of the grave are preferred to life itself:—

"A Chinese, convicted of a cruel murder, had been sentenced to transportation for life. His friends, who sought to procure a mitigation of his punishment, solicited my supposed influence as an Englishman with the Governor on their behalf. I urged the aggravated nature of the offence as a reason why I could not even conscientiously ask such a thing, if I were sure of success; and suggested that it ought to be a matter of thankfulness he was not hanged. He immediately replied, that he considered this a much severer punishment than death; for in that case his parents, who were living, might have performed his funeral rites, and the usual offices at the tomb, of which he was now deprived, while they would also be totally cut off from all intercourse with their son after death as well as in life."

Nothing more strongly proves the great influence of the Chinese system of civilization than its adoption by the Tatar conquerors: they have abandoned their national customs for those of the vanquished people. To conciliate their prejudices, the Manchew dynasty has invented a legendary genealogy, ascribing the paternity of their founder to a divine magpie. This bird is still regarded as a guardian of the royal race.

The Chinese are a very superstitious people, and are particularly devoted to astrology and magic. Most of their necromantic ceremonies are puerile, and some of them disgusting. It is interesting to find that they attach the same mystical meaning to certain numbers as the Pythagoreans and the ancient Egyptians:—

"There appears also to be corresponding agreement between the numbers two and three, as used for symbolical representations in China and Egypt. The two supreme powers emanating from one source, we have already adverted to, as alike in both countries. The number three derives importance from the three great powers in the universe, which it describes. The Chinese say numbers begin at *one*, are made perfect at *three*, and terminate at *ten*. *Three*, with the Egyptians, stands for the plural; hence, when they would denote the multiplicity of an object, they repeat the word that stands for it three times. Many Chinese symbols involve the same principle; the following may be adduced as specimens:—three suns to denote effulgence; three tongues, excessive talking; the symbol for hair, three times repeated, expresses the fur of animals, the down of birds, and anything delicate, soft, and beautiful. Three forms of the symbol for grass constitute the generic term for plants, herbs, and trees; three trees represent a forest. Many other characters might be adduced, which derive an intensity of meaning from their three-fold form. The Egyptians use the symbol three to denote dumbness, because, if a child does not speak in three years, it is presumed he will never be able to speak. The same principle is involved in the Chinese reason for mourning three years for the death of a parent, because children are peculiarly helpless for that space of time."

We have only touched on those parts of this volume which may interest general readers, the greater part of it is designed for Chinese students.

*The Porcelain Tower: or Nine Stories of China.* By "T. T. T." Embellished by J. Leech. Bentley.

If there be anything which we detest more potently than all others, worse than Fat Jack hated "security," it is boasting; and the emptiest of all possible boasting is national boasting. If any one, therefore, presumes to assert that the English nation are the greatest triflers in literature, that they read more nonsense than their neighbours, we shall not stint to tell them, *salvo reverentia*, that they are—awfully mistaken. Our friends, the French, are as much given to the flimsy in literature as we can be; and the honest, trusting, trustworthy Germans read all the villainous novels that their trans-rhenane neighbours print. True it is, that there are many thousands of native dabblers in printing—in

among the Teutonic millions; and that among these are some "inditers of a good matter," whose works we English review, and—plunder. But the profitable staple of Germanic bibliography is not the less the light literature of the Parisian press; and though every true German detests the French jointly and individually, worse than somebody hates holy water, yet do they not, as it appears, on that account eschew their works,—albeit, they swallow them as Pistol did his leek,—they read and swear.

In this there is nothing very wonderful. Nature's laws are universal. Gravitation reigns in France as in England, in Germany as in France. The same causes produce everywhere alike the same effects; and (to return to our subject) the diffusion of literature affects its profundity much in the same manner throughout all Europe. There is, then, no use in perpetually coming down upon the professors of light literature with a *cui bono*? in daily laments over the spirit of the age; or in the professional critic making an example of every author who writes for a less difficult public than his own: demand will regulate supply, in spite of all the Aristotles and Aristarchi, periodic or irregular; and there is nothing left for it but to take the world as it goes, and (the better to preserve an undisturbed equanimity) not to affect being wiser than the age we live in.

For these reasons, therefore, we shall, on the present occasion, waive all formal criticism, doff our conjuring cap, and, descending from our throne, we shall not even pause to consider whether the brittle edifice before us be a temple erected to the service of the true faith in literature, or consecrated to the worship of false gods; nor shall we inquire the relative value of the moral and intellectual instruction it holds out, as compared with that of the Exeter Hall pamphlets, the Puseyite tracts, and the Rejoinders, or any other accredited sources of pure morality and Christian peace; but proceed at once, after the true Mark Lane fashion, to show what the book is by exhibiting a few samples of its contents, which, after all, saves a world of fine writing, or, what is the same thing to a tittle, of most tiresome reading, to the common relief of all the parties concerned.

It will scarcely be necessary to premise that 'The Porcelain Tower' is not a pamphlet on the opium question, nor a treatise on antediluvian chronology. There is not, indeed, anything Chinese about it, except a very thin coating of external form, the vehicle for quaintness and contrasts adopted "for the better carrying on of the plot." Its nine stories are not so many architectural *tabulata* raised one over the other after the fashion of the pagodas in Mr. Wedgewood's blue saucers; but simply independent extravaganzas—tales, in prose and verse,—or perhaps we might say *tales*, for John Chinaman's external characteristic, his pig-tail, is of course a striking and frequently recurring image, in fact the connecting link which affords constant occupation alike to the author and to his clever illustrator Mr. Leech.

It is a matter of indifference where we begin: 'Ho-Fi' is indeed a capital tale, but it is beyond our power to abridge it. We turn, therefore, to 'The History of the Beautiful To-To,' which includes an interesting explanation of the singular fashion which prevails in China respecting ladies' feet:—

"If any of our lovely countrywomen should meet a Chinese lady, they would deem her lot unblest:—at least, the first idea that would occur to them would be, that they would not stand in her shoes. The Chinese ladies do not understand 'long measure': at all events their table is peculiar, as they have but three inches to a foot. A curious fact in their anatomy is that their toes are bent, and twenty in number, being doubled under the sole; thus even

though their feet move forward, their toes go backwards. They are extremely contentious: they cannot meet without suffling. Their walk is uneasy—they seem to move with pain; and how should it be otherwise when nails are under their feet? Yet, though feet so diminutive are at present, and have been for many centuries worn by the celestial ladies, this was not always the case. A French postilion has been described as all boots: the sage Ya-hoo, whom we have quoted at the head of this story, spoke of the softer sex in his time as *all slippers*; yet it is true that even this expression seems to set them upon a bad footing. Their feet were not always so small. You shall find in Chinese histories that the Emperor Min-Te, who came to the throne in the thirty-first year of the sixty-first cycle, had a beautiful Empress, To-To, whose feet in length rejoiced in their complement of exactly twelve inches. The Emperor loved his lady with imperial measure of attachment; indeed he regarded her single self with more affection than he entertained besides for any two of his hand-maidens, and he would seldom absent himself from her society except when it was necessary for him to give audience,—that is, to smoke a quiet hooka in presence of his ministers,—in the celestial council-chamber. The custom of the country rendered it impossible that To-To should attend him there; but when the formal conference was over, he would frequently detain his favourite minister, Hum, in whose character and wisdom he had great confidence, and retiring to a more snug apartment, would invite his Empress to join them in a cosy pipe. \* \* To testify his great esteem for Hum, the Emperor ordered that he should be lodged in the palace, in chambers not far distant from the imperial apartments. He frequently employed him to instil into the lovely To-To a proper sense of all the duties she should aim at fulfilling as a woman and a wife; but, above all, as the chosen lady of the Emperor. The beautiful Empress received meekly and graciously the lessons of virtue thus imparted to her. Nothing, to her apprehension, could be more agreeable than the counsels given by Hum. The Emperor, looking on at a little distance, was overjoyed at seeing with how much attention she listened to the instructions of so excellent an adviser; and when at other times he heard her discourse of virtue and the duties of wifehood, 'This is all Hum,' thought he. Thus she gained still more of his affection, and Hum of his esteem; and the fame of both went abroad throughout all the celestial dominions. When Hum appeared in the streets the people flocked about him. 'A Hum! a Hum!' they cried, 'the Emperor's favoured counsellor. Three cheers for a Hum.' Then they shouted aloud, and no sound could be heard except 'A Hum!' The Emperor was a sound sleeper; that is to say, he could sleep in spite of a sound. It is strange that a *sound* sleeper and a *quiet* sleeper should be nearly synonymous expressions; not quite, indeed, for one who snores may be a sound sleeper. The Empress was a sound sleeper also; a very determined sleeper; for she was addicted to somnambulism, and somnambulists must be very determined sleepers. From being himself such a decided somnambulist it was some time before the Emperor became aware of his lady's peculiarity. A little whisper, however,—no bigger than a musquito, which had for several days been fluttering about the palace, and buzzing into people's ears, one morning came dancing about his; and having awhile piped into it in a very small voice, gave it a sting which caused considerable irritation, then flew out at the window, and in a short time had treated every mother's son, and no less father's daughter, throughout the celestial dominions, in nearly the same way."

Shortly after this whisper had stung his majesty's ear, and while he lay ruminating on the subject,—

"He was suddenly aroused to full consciousness by a gentle pull of the silken covertid. He lay quite quiet, (though a goat at the moment settled on his nose,) and soon perceived that the Empress was getting out of bed in her sleep, and evidently taking the greatest possible care not to awaken herself in so doing. Having no doubt at all—none whatever—not the slightest in the world—not the least possible—that she was altogether unconscious of what she was about, he thought, like a kind Emperor, that it

would be right she should be looked to, lest she should break her neck down the stairs or out of window, the palace being two stories high; and, as he discovered that she moved towards the door, he rose from bed as quietly as she had done, and followed; she all the while trending as noiselessly as though she were a fly, and he as though he were a spider. She proceeded along the gallery, and passed the stairs without accident; and she had arrived almost at the bottom of the corridor, when the Emperor, alarmed lest she might make a false step, (a fox-paw, as the French express it,) seized her by throwing his left arm round her waist. \* \* She struggled to get loose, though still without making much noise; indeed, she thought that it would not be amiss if she could get back to her chamber as quietly as she came thence. But this was not to be; for the prime minister Hum, who, with what truth I cannot pretend to say, had the reputation of being at all times wide awake, was not asleep upon the present occasion; and hearing, with his pair of very acute ears, a little scuffling in the gallery, he opened the door of his apartment, which was close to the scene of action. He had apparently been deeply engaged in study; for he held in his hand a lighted lantern, the light of which he now directed upon the pair in the corridor. The instant he saw them, however, it dropped from his hand; and closing and fastening the door with all possible celerity, he jumped upon his bed, coiled himself into a circle less than his waist in diameter, drew the clothes over him in a heap, and lay without moving, breathing, or letting his beard grow, till the morning light had filled his apartment. During the moment that a gleam from the lantern had been thrown upon them, To-To became aware that it was only the Emperor who had frightened her so much in the dark; and of course much delighted at this discovery, and her fears all banished thereby, she immediately returned to the imperial apartment. 'My dearest To-To,' said his imperial majesty, as they entered, 'I was not till now aware that you were a somnambulist. Why did you never mention to me that you were so afflicted? I would have had a gold collar made to surround your ankle, and a chain and lock to secure you to the bed. I myself would have kept the key, so dearly do I tender your safety.' 'I had hoped,' she replied, 'that my attachment to your sacred majesty would always have exercised the counteracting influence which it has hitherto done, and have overcome entirely the infirmity to which I was formerly subject. I have no fear of another attack, and I think the gold chain therefore will be quite unnecessary.' 'As, however, you are restless to-night,' said the Emperor, 'I will secure you for the present with this strap. Stay, let me pass it round you. There, that will do—nay, one pull more—uh, uh—you can't move now, I think.' \* \* He had scarcely finished speaking before he was fast asleep; but poor To-To could not get to sleep at all, for she was almost cut in two by the strap he had fastened round her. In the morning the Emperor liberated his wife; but he did not revert to the subject of sleep-walking till after he had finished his morning devotions and meal. He sent for her then. \* \* Her compassionate lord endeavoured to console her with the suggestion that some remedy might possibly be found for this unfortunate habit: and he questioned her as to whether there was any manner in which she could at all account for her being thus afflicted. In answer to this, she expressed a suspicion that her mamma had been partly concerned;—but she afterwards put the thing in a more philosophical light, when she said, that her habits being sedentary and her feet large, the latter, she thought, had not a proper proportion of exercise during the day; and thus made up secretly for the deficiency at night, when they knew that she was sleeping, and unable consequently to keep a look out upon their motions. \* \* The Emperor confessed that his strong conviction of this was a source of disquiet to his mind; for she had clearly demonstrated that it would be the occasion of her always going wrong in sleep. It was his wish, if possible, that this might be avoided; and the only mode which occurred to him of escaping from the dilemma was to prevent her from going at all. How to effect this? He wished heartily that her feet had not grown since infancy, as she then would not have taken to sleep-walking: but they *had*, and what was to be done?

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Min-Te was an inventive genius; he hit upon an admirable plan: he sent for a cook and a cleaver, and had these offending members chopped six inches shorter. The cure was complete: it is confidently stated that To-To never more walked in her sleep; and I recommend all somnambulists to try the efficiency of Min-Te's invention. The Emperor next wished a private conference with his prime minister. Hum had not yet arisen, and the messengers had to seek him in his chamber. They found him nearly in the attitude in which he lay when we wished him good night; but when they endeavoured to arouse him, they discovered that he had choked himself by swallowing his pigtail. A proclamation went abroad throughout the empire that the most honoured and exemplary Empress, the lantern of beauty and steel-yard of ceremony, had set the fashion of short feet; and though it was not absolutely required that all the ladies of the land should conform to this mode, it was made imperative on all parents to wrap up the feet of their female children in such ligatures of cotton, silk, leather, or brass, as should effectually prevent the future growth of the pedal bones and ligaments, the toes being bent inwards towards the sole; 'for,' said the edict, 'as the toes of women have a natural bias to go wrong, it is proper that they should be turned the opposite way.' The name of the Empress, —To-To signifying 'Long-Foot,'—had become inapplicable; nor could it be desirable for an imperial lady, when length of foot had ceased to be among the elements of female beauty: the Emperor therefore changed it to Fo-Paw, which may be Englished as 'One who walks the wrong way.' Min-Te and Fo-Paw thenceforth lived ever happily. The wisdom of Min-Te is much spoken of in this day, and he is accounted one of the greatest benefactors of his country; for the Chinese are of opinion that their wives have walked much more steadily since they lost the use of their feet."

We shall now give a specimen of the tales in verse, and turn, therefore, to the student of Hanlan:—

Oh, the gentle Fum-Fum was a worshipful youth,  
A student of talent, of trust, and of truth!

Of excellent parentage,  
Wit with an ardent edge,  
Eloquence burning,  
And subtle discerning;  
Of manners most excellent,  
Forned to enchant;  
And when to the sex he leant,  
Gay and gallant.

As fat as a pig,  
And as sleek as a Cadi;  
As fresh as a fig,  
And as fair as a lady.

In learning he beat all competitors hollow;  
And, in short,  
Was a sort  
Of a pig-tailed Apollo.

He could tell you by heart  
Any part

Of the works of the sages  
Who shined in past ages,

Up to this very day—  
A great many they.

But I only can name one or two she has.

There's the exquisite Nin-Kum,

Whose pun makes the tin come,

And Hum-Drum the poet, who has no great income

(For income and ink 'em

Although we may clink 'em,

Are not such first cousins as perhaps you may think 'em.)

There's Ly the historian, and Do the philosopher;

Si lost his mistress, and weeps for the loss of her;

Fium, Skum, and Hum—but all these we will pass over,

Some are yet living, and some grow green grass over.

There's Fang the great critic,

With pen analytic,

And Sting, an ingenious satirical writer;

Sio, Lo, and Co, the political journalists;

Yawn, known because of his

Moral philosophies,

Sensible works which he's welcome to learn who lists;

And Fun, Fun, and Grin, whose effusions are lighter;

There are authors besides of wit, learning and passion;

But, above all that ever yet wrote or sang,

The writer just now at the top of the fashion,

Is elegant, moral, and eloquent Slang.

This accomplished student has a lady love,

Faw-Faw, and of course a rival, Fee-Fee:—

Fee-Fee and Fum-Fum were inveterate foes,

Not only because they were bent to oppose

Each other in contests for classical prizes—

And that fair renown that from learning arises;

But also because, as they both of them saw,

So they both fell in love with the lovely Faw-Faw.

Oh, the lovely Faw-Faw was the loveliest

maid

In all the Celestial Land;

With her brow's lovely bend, and her queue's

lovely braid.

And those sweet little claws on her hand!

With her little coxos, so delightful to see,

And her trousers so artfully planned;

Eyes like cockato's, and such dear little

shoes,

In which not a fairy might stand!

Oh happy the youth (for him Fortune, in

truth,

Hath a white page without any blot.)

To whom it occurs that his pigtail with hers

Shall be tied in a true lover's knot.

We need not enlighten our readers

further than by telling that Fee-

Fee was the favoured lover, on

which Fum-Fum took to opium

smoking. To what fatal consequences

this led, Commissioner Lin, if he be

yet living, as some suppose, might

tell: *non meus hic sermo*. Suffice it,

Fum-Fum lost his mistress; and was

very nearly losing his head into the

bargain. The catastrophe is thus summed up:—

You'd fancy he couldn't be much at his ease

When he knew fair Faw-Faw was his

foe—man Fee-Fee's;

So to banish regret,

(Though it got him in debt.)

He laid out in opium all he could get,

And he smoked it away

By night and by day,

Not minding at all what his parents might

say.

And his face grew green,

And he got very lean,

And his eyes were two terrible things to be

seen;

And his wasted lips round his teeth were

spread,

With the horrible grin of a live death's head.

And he moped and he pined as his health

declined,

Until, from an equal marasmus of mind,

In an idiot fit, one day,

(Though it's likely the fact may look strange

in our type.)

He sat himself down on the bowl of his pipe,

And by a mistake,

Which he happened to make,—

Or urged thereunto by the woes he endured,

And because to be smoked is the way to be cured,—

Smoked his very own self away.

We select the next extract in honour of the

clever artist and illustrator. The story, so far

as he is concerned, may be sufficiently told in

few words. Hey-ho, the daughter of Hou-Nou,

is locked up alone in the house of her father

during the celebration of the feast of Lanterns,

because in the babbling joyousness of a young

heart, she had unthinkingly acknowledged that

she was very fond of fun, and her wise parents

therefore resolved to keep her safe from the



The catastrophe is thus summed up:—



approaches of this same Fun, be he whom he might:—

"With vain entreaties she followed her parents to the street door: they went out, closed it, and removed the key, leaving her only one dull lantern to console her for the loss of the illumination. She leant against the cruel portal and sobbed as though her little heart would have split into a thousand flinders. 'Well, this is no fun at all,' she cried; 'there's no fun for me!' 'That's as you please,' observed a little voice somewhere; but Hey-ho could not for a while discover from whence the little voice proceeded. She was startled and terrified, and glanced round

without perceiving any one. At last her eyes fell upon a large jar, which stood in one corner of the hall; and her astonishment was great at observing a small, round head appearing above the neck of this earthen vessel, the lid of which was raised, and served as a cap to the small round head. Hey-ho's heart beat fast when she noticed this apparition, and she almost sank upon the ground with fright; but she kept her eyes upon the small round head, and the very good humoured and waggish expression of the face a little reassured her. 'Don't be frightened, most beautiful Hey-ho,' said the good-natured little apparition. 'I wouldn't if I could help it,' stammered Hey-ho; 'but who are you?' 'Why,' replied the head, 'I am just what you didn't expect to meet with,' and it laughed. 'He laughs like fun,' said Hey-ho to herself. 'I am Fun,' continued the apparition; 'and very much at your service.' 'Who?' asked Hey-ho. 'Fun,' said he; 'Fun, Fun, Fun,—nobody else but Fun; and he looked excessively funny.' 'And why came you hither?' demanded Hey-ho, who began to gain courage from the pleasing manners of Fun,







Meteorological Observations made at the Apartments of the Royal Society, Somerset House, for 45 successive hours, commencing 6 A.M. of the 21st of September, 1841, and ending 2 A.M. of the 23rd. (Greenwich mean time).

By Mr. J. D. ROBERTON, Assistant Secretary, Royal Society.

Hours of Observation.	Barom. corrected. Flint Glass.	Barom. corrected. Crown Glass.	Atmos. Ther.	Extern. Ther.	Old Standard Barom.	Atmos. Ther.	Difference of Wet & Dry Bulb Ther.	Dew Point.	Rain in Inches.	Wind.	REMARKS.
6 A.M.	29.961	29.953	63.6	59.3	30.053	64.6	01.7	60		N.E.	Overcast—light breeze.
7 ..	29.955	29.945	63.7	59.3	30.045	64.7	01.7	61		N.E.	Do. ditto.
8 ..	29.945	29.935	63.7	59.7	30.035	64.7	01.8	59		E.N.E.	Do. ditto.
9 ..	29.929	29.919	63.7	60.3	30.025	64.7	02.1	61		E.N.E.	Lightly overcast—breeze increased.
10 ..	29.916	29.908	63.8	61.7	30.008	65.0	02.4	61		E	Cloudy—light breeze.
11 ..	29.901	29.891	64.4	63.4	29.994	65.7	03.6	61		E.N.E.	Do. ditto.
12 ..	29.885	29.875	65.0	64.5	29.984	66.6	04.4	60		E.N.E.	Fine—light clouds and breeze.
1 P.M.	29.862	29.854	65.7	65.2	29.962	67.3	05.3	61		E.N.E.	Do. ditto.
2 ..	29.841	29.831	66.0	65.5	29.940	68.0	05.9	64		E.N.E.	Do. ditto.
3 ..	29.825	29.817	66.0	64.7	29.926	68.0	05.3	60		E.N.E.	Rather hazy—light breeze.
4 ..	29.818	29.808	65.7	63.3	29.911	67.7	04.7	60		N.E.	Do. ditto.
5 ..	29.803	29.793	65.2	61.5	29.897	67.2	04.1	59		N.E.	Do. ditto.
6 ..	29.772	29.764	64.7	60.8	29.865	66.3	03.5	62		N.E.	Fine—light clouds and breeze.
7 ..	29.771	29.761	64.4	59.8	29.863	65.7	03.0	60		N	Cloudy.
8 ..	29.750	29.742	64.3	59.3	29.841	65.3	02.4	62			Do. ditto.
9 ..	29.720	29.710	64.0	59.0	29.812	65.0	02.1	60			Do. ditto.
10 ..	29.709	29.697	63.7	58.8	29.792	64.7	01.8	60			Do. ditto.
11 ..	29.675	29.665	63.6	58.7	29.764	64.6	02.5	59			Do. ditto.
12 ..	29.660	29.650	63.4	58.7	29.746	64.3	02.3	59			Do. ditto.
1 A.M.	29.637	29.627	63.3	58.7	29.724	64.0	02.3	58			Cloudy—light breeze.
2 ..	29.633	29.625	63.2	58.8	29.718	64.0	02.6	58			Fine and starlight—light breeze.
3 ..	29.607	29.599	63.2	58.7	29.691	63.8	02.3	58			Do. ditto.
4 ..	29.597	29.587	63.2	58.5	29.683	63.7	03.2	58			Do. ditto.
5 ..	29.594	29.584	63.0	58.3	29.681	63.7	03.0	58		E.N.E.	Cloudy—light breeze.
6 ..	29.590	29.582	62.8	57.2	29.677	63.7	01.2	58		E	Overcast—slight rain and breeze—rain at 4 to 6.
7 ..	29.594	29.586	62.8	57.7	29.687	63.6	00.8	57	.030	E	Do. ditto.
8 ..	29.598	29.590	62.8	57.7	29.689	63.6	00.9	57	.040	E	Lightly overcast—light breeze.
9 ..	29.606	29.596	63.0	59.4	29.691	64.0	02.0	61	.016	S.E.	Cloudy—stiff breeze.
10 ..	29.611	29.601	64.0	60.7	29.699	65.3	04.2	58		S	Fine—dark broken clouds—stiff breeze.
11 ..	29.615	29.607	64.7	62.3	29.707	66.2	04.5	59		S	Do. ditto.
12 ..	29.615	29.607	64.8	62.5	29.713	66.4	04.4	59		S	Cloudy—very slight rain.
1 P.M.	29.608	29.600	65.0	64.4	29.703	66.8	07.4	59		S	Fine—broken clouds.
2 ..	29.612	29.604	65.2	64.8	29.709	67.3	07.4	58		S	Do. ditto.
3 ..	29.608	29.600	65.3	64.3	29.707	67.3	06.5	60		S	Do. ditto.
4 ..	29.602	29.594	65.3	64.2	29.695	67.3	07.3	61		S	Do. ditto.
5 ..	29.602	29.594	65.0	62.8	29.699	66.8	06.4	59		S	Do. ditto.
6 ..	29.609	29.601	64.6	61.7	29.703	66.2	05.6	58		S.S.E.	Do. ditto.
7 ..	29.612	29.604	64.2	60.3	29.703	65.7	03.6	59		S.E.	Fine—light clouds and breeze—moon and stars bright.
8 ..	29.613	29.605	64.0	59.4	29.703	65.3	03.2	58			Fine and clear.
9 ..	29.606	29.598	63.8	59.3	29.691	64.8	03.1	59			Cloudy—light breeze.
10 ..	29.608	29.600	63.7	58.7	29.695	64.7	02.5	58			Fine and starlight.
11 ..	29.600	29.590	63.7	58.3	29.685	64.4	02.9	58			Cloudy—slight rain.
12 ..	29.593	29.585	63.5	57.7	29.679	64.5	02.6	58			Do. ditto.
1 A.M.	29.593	29.585	63.2	58.2	29.679	64.3	02.0	59			Do. ditto.
2 ..	29.585	29.579	63.2	57.7	29.677	64.3	02.2	58	.097		Do. ditto.
	29.699	29.690	64.1	60.6	29.790	65.4	03.4	59	.183		

Note.—The Barometer appears to have remained almost stationary from 2 A.M. until 9 A.M., as I found on taking the observations at 9 A.M. the Barometer had merely risen .016 of an inch. There was much rain after the last observation, viz. at 9 A.M. .062 of an inch, and distant thunder on the morning of the 23rd September.—The observations of the Barometer (Flint and Crown Glass) are severally corrected for temperature, as also for Capillarity.

#### FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Heidelberg, Sept. 6.

I said I should write to you again from Frankfurt, but the Rhine-land proved full of temptations and hindrances, and I have not had an earlier moment than this to look over a note or two, which scribbled themselves, as Lady Morgan hath it, in my pocket-book, the while I floated down the Moselle. Yet the ancient city of Treves, and the beautiful river, which wanders away past its walls, with "many a yea and nay," down to the Broad Stone of Honour, deserve not merely a letter, but a book. Even to one as little justified in raving or rhapsodizing about Roman antiquities as your correspondent, the city is full of pictures, which address the eye: and the most unlettered gazer will never forget it, if he have the luck of a mellow and warm moon to light him across the old Roman bridge as he enters the town, and of a cloudless and blazing sun to display the massive and warm-red fragments of the Porta Nigra, the Amphitheatre, and the Thermæ. As I looked up to the blue heaven which, with a poplar spire or two, and more than one large and lofty monastery seen in the distance, filled the arches of the last-named ruins, and watched the lizards sliding out among its flower-grown stones and riven courses of brick-work, to enjoy the quivering heat of the noon, I felt that here might be a perfect anticipation of Italy! The Cathedral and the Liebfrauen Kirche offer a mine of speculation to pilgrims of another humour. Neither in riches of detail nor splendour of architecture do they equal the Nuremberg churches: but the first, hacked and hewed though it has been

by tasteless restorers, and decorated by the ill-chosen munificence of an affluent Chapter, has a majestic and severe grandeur of proportion and outline I have not elsewhere found. The great width of the nave, the progressive ascent thence to the choir, and from the choir to the tribune where stood the high altar, give full scope to the celebration of the Catholic worship in its most majestic and mysterious solemnities. To be sure, the pilgrim's recollections of the devout mother of Constantine, who is believed to have founded this building, and to have given the materials of her palace towards its erection and ornament, will be somewhat startled, when, on advancing up the choir, the sexton calls his attention to stalls and fittings up of a *marquetrie* so curious and admirable, as to be worthy of a Montespan: a style of ornament, however admirable in itself, as unfit, I submit, for a temple so grand in its simplicity, as a palm of Clement Marotti, trilled by the Diane or Estelle for whose delight it was paraphrased, would be if substituted for the lauds and responses now entoned from the emblazoned service-books which lie upon the desks of the choir. I could not help wishing these said stalls were safe in —'s library: and that his Majesty of Prussia would commission François Durlé, or some active carver (if Prussia boast any so good as the young Antwerper), to replace them by some church-furniture less coquettish, but more christian. A word more of the choir books: in the Sacristy, which also has been tricked out with a daintily incongruous stuccoed ceiling, among the bits and bones of saints trimmed out in lace and flowers by the Dévys of Treves, the cicerone showed

us some precious things—a manuscript by St. Simeon, the hermit, whose sanctity chose to dwell perched on the top of the Porta Nigra, in imitation of the more famous Simeon Stylites—and an exquisite service book of the eleventh century, in which a few broken hieroglyphics stand for the lines, spaces, and lozenge-headed notes of the musical stave, written, in short, before the present notation was invented. The cathedral is connected with the Liebfrauen Kirche by a picturesque cloister, full of fragments of detail; here a mutilated effigy, there a quaintly traceried gothic lantern, or a lateral chapel with frescoes on the roof, traced in the days when the painter was so devout that he would not break the commandment! If the cathedral be austere and simple in its architecture, our lady's church is as light and delicate as if the builder had meant therein to typify the feminine and engaging graces of the Mediatrix Mother—but I am going beyond my record: well, then, it has its strange old pictures of the twelve apostles, each on his own pillar, and its tombs of the Metternichs, and of the Kesselrath family (the latter foremost among the *magnates* of Treves), and its stall-work of dainty *marquetrie*, and its mummy of St. Theodolphe, who lies coffined in the most sumptuous of lace petticoats to tempt "all and sundry," even though they trouble themselves not with the mystical symbolism of antique christian art.

The by-ways of Treves are no less noticeable than the high places I have so cursorily mentioned: old toppling houses, narrow winding streets, morsels of grim square towers, give the city an air of great, but not gloomy, antiquity: I could have lingered the autumn there, and been well content.

I can fancy nothing more delightful to all such as love the *dolce far niente*, yet can still make a little exertion when a castle or a waterfall invites them, than a journey in a boat down the Moselle, from Treves to Coblenz. A steam-boat has been recently started—but that is a public and overcrowded substitute for one's own skiff, and one's own crew, as we found by contrast on coming afterwards to one of those floating cook-shops and diligences, which are sufficiently numerous to make the Rhine valley steam, from May till October, with all the fragrances of a German kitchen! As for beauty, the Rhine has the better name, the broader stream, and the more numerous castles; but the Moselle has a softness, a wealth of wood and vineyard, and here and there a passage of such rare picturesqueness,—witness Trarbach, Bielestein, Cochem,—as to make it a very dangerous rival to its better known suzerain. Trarbach was our halting-place for the first night: a more impressive relic of feudal days could hardly be found than its jumble of massive wood and mortar houses, beetling over its narrow lanes. One or two of the buildings are in as fresh a state of preservation as if these were the days not of James Watt's ghost, but of Countess Lauretta of Sponheim's real away. Close above the town, on the boldest of bold rocks, rises her cry—now a heap of ruins—commanding a river view, which may match those from the Niederwald, or the Rochus' Kapelle. Then, again, there is the double view of the stream at Kloster Marienburg, which "no river, ancient or modern," as — averred, in the plenitude of enthusiasm, could exceed. This old convent, by the way, now belongs to the Herminutens, and should they fulfil their present intentions, and build some sort of hostelry within its walls, a more perfect sketching or sporting lodge it would be hard to find, only four days from London! Mine host of the Kloster, the owner of the little but now within its walls, and who is forester to boot, told us most tempting tales of wild boar shooting, and other sports "to strengthen man's heart," and being as handsome a fellow as ever sat to Edwin Landseer, and as cheerful and kindly as all the children of the Moselle appeared to be, his guidance and company would not be the least attraction to such as hold that good scenery and good sport, are none the worse for good fellowship.

I have said that coming to a Rhine steamer after a couple of days of such "pleasant boating" as this, was like entering a noisy, vulgar cookshop, and that even the *weinbergs* and the towers of the river itself, seemed a little — But no more scandal against the Rhine: especially as while ascending his stream, I enjoyed, oddly enough, an appendix to

my London musical pleasures of the past season, too signal to be forgotten. I "foregathered," as the Scotch say, with Liszt. Perhaps you have heard already, that when—foremost as he is in all manner of generous deeds—he went down to Cologne to give a concert in aid of the funds for the restoration of the Cathedral, the musical societies of the city of Caspar Melchior and Balthasar, came up the Rhine to conduct him thither, with all the musical and artistic honours of which the Germans are so prodigal towards those who delight them. This I missed; but having heard him at Mayence, playing with his utmost fire and enthusiasm, I had the great pleasure of coming in for a serenade, given him by the town, on the strength of the band of the Austrian regiment which does its third in guarding the boat bridge to Cassel: and, setting aside the delight of hearing bits from 'Euryanthe,' and Lanner's and Labitzky's waltzes in the true *Wiener* time, admirably performed—a prettier sight could hardly be seen, than the circle of the musicians as they stood in the street below Liszt's hotel, their white uniforms gleaming in the moonshine, the lustre of a dusky outer circle of listeners, with the fleet and silent river, and the one or two scattered lights on the opposite shore gleaming in the background.

On the Rhine, too, or close to it, at Frankfort, I came in for a performance in which all Londoners may well take a lively interest—the 'Norma' of Miss Adelaide Kemble. Though she gave this under every possible disadvantage of fellow-singers—the steady German chorus always excepted—and though I heard her with a previous disposition to expect what was good from this last of her family, I must confess my expectations were exceeded. It is a great performance: passionate, highly finished and original. I have seen nothing like it from an English vocalist: very little from any English actor or actress, however well accustomed; and I only hold my pen from an attempt at analyzing its peculiarities, that you may not think me indiscriminate in panegyric—and because you will soon have an opportunity of doing it for yourself. Her reception was tumultuous, as it well deserved to be, in a land which, whatever other good things it produces, does not assuredly grow *Grisis*!

H. F. C.

## THE ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

SOME weeks since (No. 720) we announced the return of the *Erebus* and *Terror* to Hobart Town, and gave a brief outline of the results of the Expedition. Since then, the following extracts from a letter received from the gallant Commander, dated 7th April, have been published in the *Nautical Magazine*.

"Under all circumstances, it appeared to me that it would conduce more to the advancement of that branch of science, for which this expedition has been more specially sent forth, as well as for the extension of our geographical knowledge of the Antarctic regions, to endeavour to penetrate to the southward, on about the 170th degree of east longitude, by which the isodynamic oval, and the point exactly between the two foci of greater magnetic intensity might be passed over and determined, and directly between the tracks of the Russian navigator, Bellinghausen, and our own Capt. James Cook, and after entering the Antarctic circle, to steer south-westerly towards the Pole, rather than attempt to approach it directly from the north on the unsuccessful footsteps of my predecessors.

"Accordingly on leaving Auckland Islands on the 12th of December, we proceeded to the southward, touching for a few days at Campbell Island, for magnetic purposes, and after passing amongst many icebergs to the southward of 63° latitude, we made the pack-edge, and entered on the Antarctic circle on the 1st of January, 1841. This pack presented none of those formidable characters which I had been led to expect from the accounts of the Americans and French; but the circumstances were sufficiently unfavourable to deter me from entering it at this time, and a gale from the northward interrupted our operations for three or four days. On the 5th of January, we again made the pack about 100 miles eastward in latitude 66° 45' S., and longitude 174° 16' E.; and although the wind was blowing directly on it, with a high sea running, we succeeded in entering it without either of the ships sustaining any

injury; and after penetrating a few miles we were enabled to make our way to the southward with comparative ease and safety. On the following three or four days our progress was rendered more difficult and tedious, by thick fogs, light winds, a heavy swell, and almost constant snow showers; but a strong westerly sky to the south-east, which was seen at every interval of clear weather, encouraged us to persevere in that direction, and on the morning of the 9th, after sailing more than 200 miles through this pack, we gained a perfectly clear sea, and bore away south-west towards the Magnetic Pole.

"On the morning of the 11th of January, when in latitude 70° 41' S., and longitude 172° 36', land was discovered at the distance, as it afterwards proved, of nearly a hundred miles directly in the course we were steering, and therefore directly between us and the Pole. Although the circumstance was viewed at the time with considerable regret, as being likely to defeat one of the more important objects of the expedition, yet it restored to England the honour of the discovery of the southernmost known land, which had been nobly won, and for more than twenty years possessed by Russia. Continuing our course towards this land, for many hours we seemed scarcely to approach it: it rose in lofty mountain peaks of from 2 to 12,000 feet in height, perfectly covered with eternal snow; the glaciers that descended from the mountain summit projected many miles into the ocean, and presented a perpendicular face of lofty cliffs. As we neared the land, some exposed patches of rock appeared; and, steering towards a small bay for the purpose of effecting a landing, we found the shore so thickly lined for some miles with bergs and pack ice, and with a heavy swell dashing against it, we were obliged to abandon our purpose, and steer towards a more promising looking point to the south, off which we observed several small islands; and on the morning of the 12th, I landed, accompanied by Commander Crozier and a number of the officers of each ship, and took possession of the country in the name of her most gracious Majesty Queen Victoria. The island on which we landed is composed wholly of igneous rocks, numerous specimens of which, with other imbedded minerals, were procured: it is in latitude 71° 56' S., and longitude 171° 7' E.

"Observing that the east coast of the main land trended to the southward, whilst the north shore took a north-westerly direction, I was led to hope that by penetrating to the south as far as practicable it might be possible to pass beyond the Magnetic Pole, which our combined observations placed in 76° nearly; and thence, by steering westward, complete its circumnavigation. We accordingly pursued our course along this magnificent land, and on the 23rd of January, we reached 74° 15' S., the highest southern latitude that had ever been attained by any preceding navigators, and that by our own countryman, Capt. J. Weddell. Although greatly impeded by strong southerly gales, thick fogs, constant snow storms, we continued the examination of the coast to the southward, and on the 27th we again landed on an island in latitude 76° 8' S., and longitude 168° 12' E., composed, as on the former occasion, entirely of igneous rocks. Still steering to the southward, early the next morning, a mountain of 12,400 feet above the level of the sea, was seen emitting flame and smoke in splendid profusion. This magnificent volcano received the name of Mount Erebus. It is in latitude 77° 32' S., and longitude 167° 0' E. An extinct crater to the eastward of Mount Erebus, of somewhat less elevation, was called Mount Terror.

"The main land preserved its southerly trending, and we continued to follow it until, in the afternoon, when close in with the land, our further progress in that direction was prevented by a barrier of ice, stretching away from a projecting cape of the coast, directly to the E.S.E. This extraordinary barrier presented a perpendicular face of at least 150 feet, rising, of course, far above the mast-heads of our ships, and completely concealing from our view every thing beyond it, except only the tops of a range of very lofty mountains in a S.S.E. direction, and in latitude 79° south. Pursuing the examination of this splendid barrier to the eastward, we reached the latitude of 78° 4' S., the highest we were at any time able to attain, on the 2nd of February; and having on the 9th traced its continuity to the longitude of 191° 23' in latitude 78° S., a distance of more than

300 miles, our further progress was prevented by a heavy pack, pressed closely against the barrier; and the narrow lane of water, by means of which we had penetrated thus far, became so completely covered by rapidly forming ice, that nothing but the strong breeze with which we were favoured enabled us to retrace our steps. When at a distance of less than half a mile from its lofty icy cliffs, we had soundings with 318 fathoms, on a bed of soft blue mud.

"With a temperature of 20° below the freezing point, we found the ice to form so rapidly on the surface, that any further examination of the barrier in so extremely severe a period of the season being impracticable, we stood away to the westward for the purpose of making another attempt to approach the Magnetic Pole, and again reached its latitude 76° S., on the 15th of February, and although we found that much of the heavy ice had drifted away since our former attempt, and its place, in a great measure, supplied by recent ice, yet we made some way through it, and got a few miles nearer to that Pole than we had before been able to accomplish, when the heavy pack again frustrated all our efforts, completely filling the space of fifteen or sixteen miles between us and the shore. We were this time in latitude 76° 12' S. and longitude 164°, the dip being 88° 40', and variation 109° 24' E. We were, of course, 160 miles from the Magnetic Pole.

"Had it been possible to have approached any part of this coast, and to have found a place of security for the ships, we might have travelled this short distance over the land, but this proved to be utterly impracticable, and although our hopes of complete attainment have not been realized, it is some satisfaction to feel assured, that we have approached the Magnetic Pole more nearly by some hundreds of miles than any of our predecessors, and from the multitude of observations that have been made in both ships, and in so many different directions from it, its position can be determined with nearly as much accuracy as if we had actually reached the spot itself. It had ever been an object of anxious desire with us to find a harbour for the ships, so as to enable us to make simultaneous observations with the numerous observers that would be at work on the important term-day of the 28th of February, as well as for other scientific purposes, but every part of the coast where indentations appeared, and where harbours on other shores usually occur, we found so perfectly filled with perennial ice of many hundred feet in thickness, that all our endeavours to find a place of shelter for our vessels were quite unavailing.

"Having now completed all that it appeared to me possible to accomplish in so high a latitude, at so advanced a period of the season, and desirous to obtain as much information as possible of the extent and form of the coast we had discovered, as also to guide, in some measure, our future operations, I bore away on the 18th of February for the north part of this land, and which, by favour of a strong southerly gale, we reached on the morning of the 21st. We again endeavoured to effect a landing on this part of the coast, and were again defeated in our attempt by the heavy pack which extended for many miles from the shore, and rendered it impossible. For several days we continued to examine the coast to the westward, tracing the pack-edge along, until on the 25th of February we found the land abruptly to terminate in latitude 70° 40' S., and longitude 165° E., trending considerably to the southward of west, and presenting to our view an immense space occupied by the newly-formed ice, and so covered by recent snow, as to present the appearance of one unbroken mass, and defying every attempt to penetrate it. The great southern land we have discovered, and whose continuity we have traced from nearly the 70th to the 79th degree of latitude, I am desirous to distinguish by the name of our Most Gracious Sovereign Queen Victoria."

## OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

THE same quiet prevails in all matters relating to literature and art—not a report or an announcement has reached us worth recording. We have however peeped hastily into a volume, which, if it might be taken as an earnest of the coming season would hold out tempting promise; but it must be received as a season in itself—a single swallow that will make a summer—not as an illustrated book, but

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as a library of illustration and blazonry and beauty: we allude to Mr. Murray's new edition of *Lockhart's Spanish Ballads*, than which nothing comparable has hitherto appeared in its way; and which, in these days of cheap literature, will startle "the Row" from its propriety, as it has already shaken the sober opinions of the critic, who thinks it wise therefore, and becoming the dignity of his office, to defer a formal judgment.

The daily papers announce the death, in his 70th year, of Mr. Thomas Dibdin—one of a family of more genius than prudence, the son of Charles Dibdin, the dramatic writer, well and long to be remembered for his naval songs. Thomas Dibdin was introduced to the public when only four years of age, as *Cupid*, in the pageant of 'Shakespeare's Jubilee,' and has from that time been constantly connected with the Stage as actor, author, or manager. We do not think that he could himself have enumerated one half or one quarter of the various pieces, songs, and spectacles, furnished to the theatres during the last half century, by his ever active and fertile pen: few were of a high or enduring character, though many were extremely popular and profitable to the several managements; the most celebrated or successful were 'The Cabinet,' 'The English Fleet,' 'Mother Goose,' a pantomime which brought, it is said, more than 20,000*l.* to the treasury of Covent Garden, and the 'High-mettled Racer,' which realized 12,000*l.* to the proprietors of Astley's.

A letter from Geneva has announced to the Academy of Sciences the death of the distinguished botanist M. de Candolle, one of the most illustrious of its corresponding members.—The *Journal des Débats* also records the death, after a lingering illness, of a man well known, for half a century, in the literary circles of France—M. Bertin the elder, one of the founders of that journal, and its director for upwards of forty years. M. Bertin was in his seventy-fifth year.

We learn from the Berlin papers of the return home of the Prussian naturalist, Doctor Frederic de Sommer, after several years' travel in Southern Africa, bringing with him a rich and curious collection of natural history and other objects—one department of which is spoken of as unique in Europe. This is a series of small pictures, said to be very skilfully executed by the natives, upon mica. The Doctor has offered his collection to the government.

The Administration of the Italian Theatre at Paris has engaged, to replace Rubini as its first tenor, Sig. Antonio Ronzi, the brother of Madame Ronzi de Begnis. Sig. Ronzi is under thirty years of age, has sung successfully on the stages of Naples, Milan, and Madrid, and is spoken of as a sound musician—the composer of several cantatas, and of some romance-melodies which are favourites in Italy. A negotiation had been, it is said, on foot, for securing the services of the tenor Poggi, and his wife, the celebrated Frezzolini-Poggi, which had failed.—To this piece of dramatic intelligence, we may add the few following scattered bits:—Fanny Essler's American triumph has been enjoyed at a cost which will make a substantial diminution of the pecuniary profit which was one of its incidents. The Administration of the Opera has obtained a judgment against her, before the French tribunals, for the sum of 60,000 fr. (2,400*l.*), the penalty of her forfeiture of her engagement in its service. Fanny, it appears, was under articles to that establishment till the 31st of May 1845.—Taglioni has carried her European laurels for final confirmation to her native town of Stockholm. She has never been seen by the Stockholm public before.—The French papers mention that Miss Adelaide Kemble has been playing *Norma* at Frankfurt with such brilliant success, as has induced the management to engage her for twelve performances. (Our correspondent, who was present, confirms this judgment).—From Dresden, a melancholy incident is mentioned as having taken place in the Royal Theatre of that capital,—the suicide, before the audience, of a young writer of Leipzig, named Gerstenhage, the author of several popular romances. It may be given as a tolerable specimen of German plegm, that after a liberal allowance of twenty minutes to the emotions excited by an event so startling and distressing, the audience demanded the continuance of the performance; and the play,

and farce which succeeded, were witnessed with the most exemplary tranquillity.—From Berlin it is announced that the actors of the Royal Theatre are preparing for the performance, at the private theatre of the Court, during the coming winter, of some of the old Greek tragedies, translated into German, and with their choruses set to music. Mendelssohn is engaged on the choruses to the *Edipus Coloneus*, Frederic Schneider on the *Electra*, and Spohr is setting those of the *Antigone*.—To the musical intelligence included in the foregoing scraps, we may add, that a great Singing-congress is to take place at Brussels to-morrow, the 26th, the Musical Society in that capital, entitled the *Société Philharmonique de Grétry*, having invited all the Belgian and Rhenish Philharmonic Societies to meet and contend for prizes, consisting of medals in gold and silver. To those prizes which shall be won by foreign societies, a sum of money is to be added, as an indemnity for the expenses of the journey; and the Belgian government, desirous to secure a brilliant and numerous meeting, has offered to convey the distant bodies to Brussels, by the various Belgian railroads, at its own cost.

The third Italian Scientific Congress is now assembled at Florence. A kind of apotheosis of Galileo is announced. On the first meeting, which took place at Pisa, the statue of this celebrated man was inaugurated. This year the manuscripts and instruments of Galileo, Torrecelli, and their principal disciples are to be exhibited. At the same time a new edition of *Essais de l'Académie du Cimento* is to be published, with a history of the Society, and a copy will be presented to the distinguished foreigners who attend the meeting.—The French Scientific Congress, before quitting Lyons, decided on holding its tenth session, in 1842, at Strasburg. Bordeaux is spoken of for their eleventh place of meeting.

#### THE DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.

THE TWO NEW PICTURES now exhibiting, represent the Interior of the CATHEDRAL OF AUCH, in the South of France, and the SHRINE OF THE NATIVITY, at Bethlehem, taken from a sketch made on the spot by D. Roberts, R.A. In 1839, with various effects of light and shade. Both Pictures are painted by M. Henon. Open from Ten till Five.

DACTYLOTYPE AND ELECTROTYPE PORTRAITS and GROUPS are taken on an improved plan at the ROYAL ADELPHI GALLERY, LOWER ARCADE, STRAND, by Mr. CLAUDE, who, by a chemical process, fixes his pictures, which then can neither fade nor turn black. The state of the weather does not impede his process. Electrotypes are taken equal to the original, and no Portrait need be paid for unless the likeness be approved of. A fine Collection of Daguerrotypes Views, taken abroad, are to be seen at Claudet & Houghton's Glass Warehouse, 59, High Holborn.—On and after Monday the 27th inst., the Gallery will also be thrown open as an Evening Exhibition to the Public.—Open from half-past 10 till 6 o'clock.—Admission, 1*z.*; Children, half price.

JERUSALEM—BURFORD'S PANORAMA, Leicester-square.—A splendid VIEW OF JERUSALEM is now OPENED to the PUBLIC. From the particular desire expressed by the Visitors of the Establishment, Mr. Burford has been induced to bring this highly-interesting subject before them. Some of the many splendid objects in the View are: The Mosque of Omar—The Mount of Olives—Mount Calvary—Mount Zion, &c. The bombardment of St. Jean d'Acre is also Open. Admission to each View, 1*z.* Books, 6*d.* each. Open from 10 till dusk.

#### SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

##### ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

S. E. Cottam, Esq., John E. Duncan, Esq., M.A., and the Rev. C. Strong, M.A., have been elected Fellows of the Society.

The following communications have been read:—  
'A New Catalogue of Moon-culminating Stars, observed at South Kilworth,' by the Rev. Dr. Pearson.

'On the Advantages to be attained by a Revision and Re-arrangement of the Constellations, with especial reference to those of the Southern Hemisphere, and on the Principles upon which such Re-arrangement ought to be constructed,' by Sir J. F. W. Herschel, Bart.—The stars must have been divided into groups, which, as also single stars, would have received names long before they began to be considered with reference to the seasons, or the sun's motion in the ecliptic. The best-defined groups would be the first named, but in the stars of the zodiac this principle would be afterwards modified, for the convenience of dividing the circle into equal parts. In the extra-zodiacal regions no principle seems to have prevailed, either of subdivision or nomenclature; and many of the figures of the constellations scarcely resemble the forms intended, with the exception of a few, as *Scorpio* for example. Names, however, would be imposed from other associations than mere

form. The author proposes to consider how far the present system of constellations is adapted to the purposes of astronomy, and to examine by what modifications it may be made more serviceable; and also to inquire into the circumstances which render a systematic revision of them desirable, or even necessary, at the present advanced epoch. The use of constellations to the astronomer is to enable him to refer to a particular star. For this purpose, a distribution on any principle would serve; yet even on this point the present system often leads to confusion: for, 1st, the similarity of the names of several constellations, and the bestowing on a new constellation the name of an old one, with an adjunct for the sake of distinction, render it necessary in many cases, in order to avoid confusion, to write the names at full length: thus, for example, we have (with several others) *Ursa major* and *minor*, three *Triangles*, *Pices* and *Piscis*, *Apis* and *Apus*, *Telescopium* repeated three times, *Quadrant*, *Sextant*, and *Octant*, &c. &c. 2ndly. Some constellations are so extensive that they exhaust three or more alphabets, and therefore it is sometimes necessary, besides the letter of the star, to specify also its right ascension and declination: for example, in *Argo* three stars are marked  $\alpha$ , and seven  $\lambda$ . Again, such constellations extend over so many hours of right ascension, that the name of the constellation is of no use in finding, in the catalogues, one of the stars composing it: thus *Argo* occupies eight hours of right ascension. 3rdly. The imperfect and uncertain boundaries of the present constellations lead to confounding the Greek letters of one constellation with those of another contiguous to it. Moreover, the boundaries are not always the same in different maps—a circumstance which alone is decisive of the necessity of some system which might be more favourable to a general understanding. To the astronomer who refers to stars by their catalogued places, these inconveniences may not afford serious ground of complaint; since even in the southern hemisphere but few stars of the fifth magnitude remain uncatalogued. Nor are the defects of the present system felt by seamen, who have little to do with the constellations beyond referring to a few well-known stars. But to those who employ themselves in the physical departments of practical astronomy, such as variable stars, photometrical determinations, and other subjects, and who require a perfect familiarity with the aspect of the heavens, the present arbitrary and capricious allotment of the stars renders reference to maps constantly necessary. And when the leading stars in the map are not those which in the heavens catch the eye by their brightness, it becomes necessary alternately to inspect the map by candlelight, and then to rush out into the darkness, to compare the impression made on the memory with the visible aspect of the stars, to the loss of all delicacy of vision, and the injury of the organ itself. The author had proposed to himself to follow out, in the southern hemisphere, the plan adopted by the late Sir William Herschel, in order to place on record the relative apparent magnitudes of the stars at this epoch; and it was while thus engaged that he became impressed with the necessity of a total reformation of the ancient system. In enumerating the qualities which a system of sidereal arrangement should possess, the writer observes that the new subdivisions should be of moderate extent, the figures easily traced, and the groups such as naturally arrange themselves in distinct forms. Again, the boundaries ought to be definite, so as to be transferred from one map to another without variation; they should accordingly be arcs of great circles, or parallels to a great circle: that is, circles of right ascension and parallels of declination. The limits, thus assumed, should correspond to a particular epoch, being reduced to any other time, by the necessary tables, like stars. The advantages of this system would be that each star would be at once referred to its proper district; that the observer, becoming familiar with the limits, would know the time when each star approached his meridian, as also the limits of altitude between which it would be comprised. After some remarks on the mode of carrying the proposed plan into execution, the writer suggests: 1. That the names of constellations should be such as not to be easily confounded either when spoken or printed. 2. Each name should be Latin, with a regular genitive case; to which the astronomers of different nations should





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At end of Period.	Annual Revenue.	Accumulated Fund.	Subsisting Assurances.
1815-1824	£ 17,454	£ 77,339	£ 372,038
1824-1831	34,653	304,818	1,280,033
1831-1839	145,546	789,812	2,145,512

And to show how steadily the tide of success continues to flow, it is only further necessary to note, under the above heads, the results submitted to the Annual General Court held on 2nd March 1841, embracing, as these do, the operation of the past year, 1840.

1. Annual Revenue ..... £ 178,393
2. Accumulated Fund ..... 1,019,239
3. Subsisting Assurances ..... 4,140,977

But extraordinary as is this success, which so fully bears out the SOUNDNESS OF THE PRINCIPLES upon which the Institution is based, these principles have been essentially aided by the extreme caution which characterizes the Society in the SELECTION OF LIVES—of which no better evidence can be afforded than the fact, that while the Assurances effected during the year 1839 amounted to the large sum of 630,596*l.*, Proposals for Assurances were rejected to the amount of no less a sum than 160,000*l.*—as well as by the very striking statement made at the Annual General Court held in January 1839, "that the deaths, during the preceding seven years had been on an average of 57 for each 100 that the calculations, according to the rate of mortality on which the Society's Tables are founded, would have led the Directors to expect."

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And the rules for the distribution of its Surplus Funds have been proved to be alike founded in equity and expediency.

While, in this way, the Society is, even in the first and most limited view of the matter, enabled to realize the utmost saving that the business of Life Assurance admits of, and thereby to economise to the utmost, in behalf of its members, the cost at which the valuable benefits of Life Assurance are obtained, its advantages are by no means limited to this. Although a Mutual Contribution Society, originally without capital, and contemplating merely the reduction in the cost of Life Assurance to the lowest limit that a careful selection of lives, and an economical management, might be enabled to effect, yet the large extent of accumulated fund and revenue which it now possesses, and the prompt liberality of its settlements, have long since opened up, and still secure to it, in a progressively increasing ratio, all those sources of profitable business which the most favoured Proprietary bodies or Trading Insurance Companies can command. The profits from those classes of Assurance which it has been found expedient to exclude from any participation in the Surplus Fund, as also the profits from lapsed and surrendered Policies, and from successful investments of capital, are all available, without the slightest limitation, to this Society, as to Proprietary Assurance Companies. The important difference lies simply in the application of the profits. While in Proprietary bodies these are applied, either wholly or partially, to the benefit of the Proprietors, and to the exclusion of the Assured, the profits in this Society belong wholly to the Assured. In the former case, their operation is exhibited in increasing the value of the Proprietors' Stock, and in raising their Dividends, but leaving the Policies at their original amount; while, as the constitution of this Society admits of no other application of the profits than simply and wholly for the benefit of the Assured, their operation is seen in those large Additions which, as in the case of the Equitable, will undoubtedly render a Policy of Life Assurance in this Office, steadily kept up during the whole period of a prolonged life, a very valuable inheritance indeed. And this benefit is operative not only at death, but may, even during the lifetime of the Assured, be made available to the most valuable purposes.

As in an Institution of this nature, moreover, the expense of management always bears a less proportion to the total amount of business, the more its business is extended, it evidently becomes the interest of those who are already Assured to use their own influence in extending the Society's connection. Nor can it be too strongly impressed on those who may be contemplating Assurances, to consider maturely the relative merits of the various Offices before committing themselves to any one in particular, they will find that it is necessary not merely to ascertain what Profits have been made or can be made, but upon what principles these Profits are divided. That in some Offices no greater amount of Additions is given to the man who died the day before one Period of Investigation, than to him who died the day after the preceding period of Investigation, although the latter may have contributed for several years longer to the Fund.

By keeping these and other distinguishing features of the different Societies and Companies in view, they will save

themselves from the loss which has already been sustained by many, of having to give up their Insurances with one office, and open new Policies with another. It appears from the Report of the Procedure of the SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND SOCIETY for the year 1839, that out of the 630,000*l.* insured, no less than 100,000*l.* consisted of Assurances transferred from other Offices; and although the parties may have acted wisely in transferring their Insurances at that time, there can be no doubt that had they originally insured with the SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND, they would have stood in a very different and much more favourable position in a pecuniary point of view.

The principles upon which the profits of this Society are divided are very simple, depending upon the amount insured, and the period during which the Policy may have been in force.

The best proof that can be given of the practical working of this system, is, by reference to the following Table, in which it will be seen to what an extent a Policy opened with this Society will increase, if kept steadily up during the period of a long life.

Table—showing the amount of Additions declared at 31st December 1839, on a Policy of 1000*l.*, opened in any of the preceding five years:—

Year of Entry.	Policy with vested Additions at 1st January 1839.	Amount payable under a Policy of 1000 <i>l.</i> , including Retrospective and Contingent Additions, if claim emerge after payment of the Premium for the year.	1843.	1844.	1845.
1815	£ 1567 4 6	£ 1715 18 10	£ 1777 13 0	£ 1869 8 7	
1820	3215 4 0	1479 14 8	1366 12 6	1342 10 7	
1825	3259 14 0	1353 12 8	1410 17 3	1436 1 2	
1830	3174 4 0	2291 12 5	1315 3 1	1336 11 9	
1835	1040 0 0	1189 0 0	1309 13 0	1251 4 0	

N.B. It is here proper to state, that a sufficient estimated Fund has been laid aside, out of the Surplus Fund or Profits already realized, to meet the prospective additions without encroaching on the Surplus Fund now arising to form the subject of allocation at the next, being the Fourth Periodical Investigation.

But without any special reference to the peculiar advantages afforded by this Institution, the ordinary benefits of Life Assurance are of themselves amply sufficient to induce those who have relations or families dependent upon them, and who are duly impressed with the uncertainty of life, to have recourse to it no less as a matter of duty than of interest. This may be, and indeed must be, admitted by all who have experienced it; but in further illustration of the fact, the following cases are given which have actually occurred, and which have been extracted from the Society's books:—

Age at entry.	Date of Assurance.	Date of Decree.	Interval between Assurance and Decree.	Original sum Assured.	Amount of Additions by way of Bonus.	Total sum paid.
43	1815, Jan.	1837, Feb.	Yrs. 22	£ 500	258 16 1	758 16 1
55	1816, Mar.	1834, Nov.	18	8 100	43 9 11	143 9 11
53	1817, Nov.	1831, April	13	5 500	180 14 0	685 14 0
65	1818, June	1832, April	13	8 300	312 16 0	1112 16 0
53	1821, Mar.	1835, Dec.	14	10 850	207 17 9	1092 17 9
47	1821, April	1839, Oct.	18	6 1250	270 17 6	1720 17 6
25	1822, Dec.	1832, Dec.	9	3300	340 1 3	3640 1 3

Every facility consistent with sound principle and due caution is afforded to those holding Assurances from the Society. The Assured, if not seafaring by occupation, are allowed to pass during peace by sea from one part of Europe to any other part of Europe, without licence or extra premium. Assurances on the lives of others are protected from the forfeiture of suicide, and onerous Assignments to Policies opened by persons on their own lives may, on application to, and with the approval of the Directors, be similarly protected to the extent of their bona fide interest.

The Directors are empowered to accept Surrenders of the Society's Policies, and allow a liberal value for the same; and they are also empowered to make advances, by way of loan, on a deposit of the Policies, to an amount not exceeding a certain proportion of the value of the original Policy and Additions at the time.

Assurances are now granted to any extent not exceeding 5000*l.* on approved lives; and the numerous proposals made in the course of the present year, by parties already assured, to have their Insurances increased, is the strongest possible proof of the growing estimation in which the Society is held.

JOHN MACKENZIE, Manager.